

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

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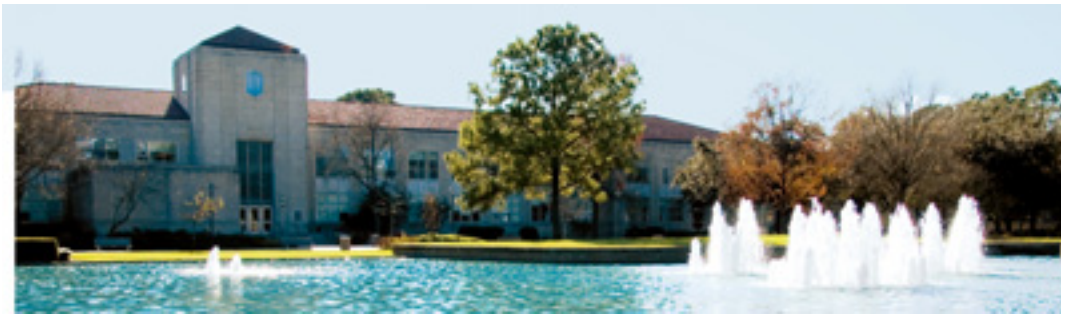
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2007-2008
Edition



Three UH Creative Writers Receive Major Awards

In recognition of a writing career distinguished by a series of books exploring the intersections of American and South Asian cultures, **Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni** was awarded the South Asian Literary Association Distinguished Author Award.

Mat Johnson was one of 50 artists to receive a prestigious United States Artists Fellowship. These fellowships honor both promise and achievement, and they are intended to support the work of artists and writers whose efforts are defining the possibilities for art and writing in the United States. Mat was named the James Baldwin Fellow.

Tony Hoagland received the Jackson Prize in Poetry—this prize honors a poet of “exceptional talent.” In awarding the prize, the judges (Philip Levine, Robert Pinsky and Ellen Bryant Voigt) commented that “it’s hard to imagine any aspect of contemporary American life that couldn’t make its way into the writing of Tony Hoagland.”

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



From the Director...

In the past I have used this space to update you on the state of the program, but this year I wanted to talk briefly about the rhythm of graduate education and those moments when a student's writing falls apart. During this year's doctoral defenses, I was struck by how frequently students talked about a period when they were unable to write. They had entered the program with MFAs and were already planning how to get the first book out and what the second book might be when they found themselves stalled. No doubt some of this can be attributed to an exhausting teaching load and to demanding course work, but I think that something else, something much more important, is going on. Serious graduate education often requires fallow periods. Part of intellectual and aesthetic growth involves a discontent with what one is currently doing and with what one has done in the past. When education works, a previous identity no longer fits comfortably, and ways of proceeding that had worked well, no longer work. Such times are unpleasant, to say the least, because it is not clear what will take the place of a former identity or way of writing. One needs simply to work and to wait. And one needs the courage and faith to endure those periods in which one's writing is not working. We all know that these are very hard periods. But the reward for exercising the virtues of courage and patience are significant. I was struck by how much better and how much more original the writing was for those students who had had to endure a fallow period. As readers of their theses, we could see something emerging that was not predictable and that was clearly the discovery of a voice. It was as if the writer was no longer writing in the style of a previous poet or fiction writer but was beginning to carve out a particular place within a tradition. It was very exciting to see, and it was deeply gratifying.

Too often I find myself dealing with issues of funding or other administrative concerns or academic politics that make me lose sight of what is special about graduate education. It is as if the elements that support the education usurp the place of the education. When that happens, it is therapeutic to return to a focus on education and to touch base with that important activity of learning and to remember what an amazing thing it is to see a mind grow. Too often the distractions of academic or student life displace this activity, and when that happens, it is a shame.

So in late April and early May I was given a gift and allowed to remember why we are here and to remember the courage and patience that are at the heart of serious intellectual and creative work. It may be worth tolerating the tedium that is so much part of institutional life in order to preserve such work and to figure out ways to promote and support it. And more than anything, it was evidence to me of the health of the program. We exist to challenge writers and to teach them how to challenge themselves. Our responsibility is to bring writers into the examined life, and I think that we are meeting that responsibility, and I am proud to be part of that.

J. Kastely,
Director

Program News

Staff News

It's been a quiet but productive year in the Creative Writing offices. Our new students from Fall 2007 are so talented and committed and the new ones arriving in Fall 2008 promise to be just as great. Of course, getting through the application process kept us busy for several months but it's always worth it when we start meeting the new folks.

We've also been working to get our website updated and it's actually up now. We still have some text and links to add but at least the information isn't outdated. We hope to have a really interactive one within the next few months. Then we can have some fun with it. We'll keep you posted.

The graduate lounge and mailroom and the hallway got a makeover and it's great. It was mostly completed by the time classes started in the Fall and we think the students really appreciate the new look. It's more user-friendly and attractive than the institutional look we had.

Shatera Anderson, our office coordinator, helped to make the application process go smoothly. She had good ideas for organizing files and application materials. And she did it while taking classes at TSU and making the Dean's list there. She's also had some very good input for the new website. On a more personal note, Shatera's a great vocalist and is working on a CD.

Kathy Smathers is looking forward to meeting the new students in the Fall. Over the summer she chose to work a "flex time" schedule to be able to spend more time at her newly remodeled weekend house at Lake Livingston. Since it's pretty quiet at the office during the summer, we're allowed to do that. But she's here if something comes up and she's working on this newsletter everyday. And she's working with Mike Doyle to get the website finished. It's nice to have the quiet time (sometimes too quiet) in the summer but Kathy always looks forward to having the students and faculty back in the Fall.

Mike Doyle, as always, is an indispensable part of the newsletter and website. He helps to edit text and does most of the layout for the newsletter as well as providing photos. He also coordinated with the UH/CLASS web gurus to get the website up. His ideas are great and he's as excited as the rest of us to see it updated and online.

New Student Association

The Association of Graduate Creative Writers (AGCW), a student-run academic organization representing the interests of CWP students in the department, was approved by the Office of Campus Activities this June and will be active throughout the 2008-2009 school year. In its inaugural year, AGCW plans to organize a welcome for new students as well as provide supplementary funding for conferences to its members (all CWP students in good academic standing are automatically considered members and can request funding). The welcome

is meant to augment the English Department orientation, TA training, and the CWP welcome meeting that in the past have comprised the whole of the new student orientation. The AGCW hopes to provide information that pertains to the particular academic concerns of Creative Writing Students in their first year as well as to concerns about living in Houston and building a sense of community among new students in those early, nervous, too-hot weeks before the start of school. The welcome will include a full campus tour, a question-and-answer session with returning students, refreshments and a guide to living in Houston. During the year, AGCW will have limited funds for allocation to help with the costs of attending conferences and other literary activities. We expect most of these moneys will go towards funding AWP-goers but AGCW will also consider requests for other academic conferences (MLA, CCCC, etc.) and literary events that are reasonably beneficial to the professional lives of its members and to the CWP as a whole (readings, slams, literature festivals, etc.) on an as-needed basis. These funds can only be issued through reimbursements, and again, are relatively limited, but please don't be shy about asking about them. They are for you. You can do this by contacting any of the three current AGCW officers: **Sean Bishop**, **Eric Ekstrand** or **Hannah Gamble**. And if there are any other ways that you think AGCW could help you, or if you would like to be involved in any way, please let us know. The group is still shaping itself and is eager for feedback on how it can best be of service to the program and its students.

Inprint Houston

Inprint, whose mission is to inspire readers and writers, is proud to continue its close synergetic relationship with the UH Creative Writing Program. A nonprofit organization founded in 1983, Inprint fulfills this mission through sponsorship of the nationally renowned Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, literary and educational activities in the community that demonstrate the value and impact of creative writing, and through support for the UH Creative Writing Program. Through its programs, Inprint has created a community for readers and writers in Houston and plays a vital role in the city's rich and diverse cultural life.

Inprint is happy to report that the organization's new Director of Development is Peter Hyland. Peter is an MFA graduate of the UH Creative Writing Program, where he received both a Brown Fellowship and a Krakow Poetry Seminar Fellowship. Peter has served on the development staffs of both the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Houston Grand Opera. At HGO, in addition to serving as senior development writer, he worked closely with senior staff members on HGO's innovative community outreach efforts.

The 2008-2009 Inprint season kicks off in September with readings by some of the world's top writers. Many of the writers coming to Houston for the Margaret Root Brown Reading Series will give craft talks and Q&A sessions for CWP students on the UH campus. All Studio Series writers will conduct residencies with CWP students. The following is a season schedule. For more details visit www.inprinthouston.org or call 713.521.2026.

Inprint Readings 2008-2009

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, September 15, 2008, 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby
Junot Diaz's debut short story collection, *Drown*, was named a New York Times Notable Book in 1996. This year, Diaz was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for his second book, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. The novel also received the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Novel, and was named the #1 Best Novel of the Year by Time Magazine and New York Magazine.

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, October 6, 2008, 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby
Anne Enright won the 2007 Man Booker Prize for her captivating fourth novel, *The Gathering*. Her other works include two story collections, an essay collection and the novels *The Wig My Father Wore*, *The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch* and *What Are You Like?*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award and won the Encore Award.

Ann Patchett is the author of the blockbuster novel *Bel Canto*, which was translated into 30 languages, and won both the Orange Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award. Her fifth novel, *Run*, takes on the issues of class and belonging, parenthood and love. Patchett's other works include *The Patron Saint of Liars*, which was named a New York Times Notable Book, *Truth and Beauty*, a poignant memoir of her friendship with the writer Lucy Grealy, and her newest book, *What Now?*, an inspiring essay based on her 2006 Sarah Lawrence commencement address.

Inprint/Methodist Hospital Studio Series, Thursday, October 16, 2008, 7:30 pm

Antidote Coffee, 729 Studewood
Cate Marvin is a graduate of the UH Creative Writing Program. Her first book, *World's Tallest Disaster*, was chosen by Robert Pinky for the 2000 Kathryn A. Morton Prize. Her second book of poems, *Fragment of the Head of a Queen*, was published in August 2007. A recent Whiting Award recipient, Cate is also co-editor of the anthology *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*.

Karen Shepard, also a UH CWP graduate, is a Chinese-American, born and raised in New York City. She is the author of three novels: *An Empire of Women*, *The Bad Boy's Wife* and, most recently, *Don't I Know You?*

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, November 10, 2008, 7:30 pm
Neuhaus Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue
Natasha Trethewey won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 2007 for her collection, *Native Guard*. The book weaves her own biracial personal history with the history of the Louisiana Native Guards, one of the first black regiments called into service during the Civil War. Trethewey's other works include *Bellocq's Ophelia* and *Domestic Work*, which was chosen by Rita Dove to receive the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet.

John Edgar Wideman, recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellowship, is the winner of two PEN/Faulkner Awards for his novels *Sent for You Yesterday* and *Philadelphia Fire*. His second memoir, *Fatheralong: A Meditation on Fathers and Sons, Race and Society*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Wideman's eighteenth book, *Fanon*, about Frantz Fanon, psychiatrist and

revolutionary whose work inspired liberation movements around the world, is part whodunit, part screenplay, part love story.

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, January 12, 2009, 7:30 pm
Levit Haikin Auditorium, Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 South Braeswood Blvd.

Geraldine Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction in 2006 for her captivating novel, *March*, the imagined story of the absent father from the classic *Little Women*. In her newest novel, *People of the Book*, Brooks, a former correspondent in Bosnia for *The Wall Street Journal*, creates a story about the survival of the "Sarajevo Haggadah", a lavishly (and real) illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in medieval Spain. Brooks is also the author of the novel *Year of Wonders* and the nonfiction works, *Nine Parts Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*.

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, February 16, 2009, 7:30 pm
Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby

Ha Jin, who emigrated from China in the aftermath of Tiananmen Square, won the National Book Award for his novel, *Waiting*, in 1999. He is now the author in English of seven works of fiction and three books of poetry. His new novel, *A Free Life*, follows the Wu family from Boston to Atlanta.

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, March 9, 2009, 7:30 pm
Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue

Richard Price, author of seven novels, including *Clockers*, *Freedomland*, and *Samaritan*, has written his first novel in five years, *Lush Life*, which was hailed by Gary Shteyngart as "the novel about gentrified New York, circa right now, that we've been waiting for. Richard Price understands what's happened to our beloved city." Price is also the

award-winning scriptwriter for the HBO series, "The Wire".

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, March 30, 2009, 7:30 pm
Kaplan Theatre, I. W. Marks Theatre Center, Jewish Comm. Ctr. of Houston, 5601 So. Braeswood Blvd.

Charles Simic, a prolific critic and essayist as well as the current U.S. Poet Laureate, has published more than 60 books here and abroad, including his latest collection of poems, *That Little Something*. Simic was born in Yugoslavia, where he had a traumatic childhood during World War II, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1954. His other books of poetry include *The World Doesn't End* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize), *What the Grass Says*, *Walking the Black Cat* (a finalist for the National Book Award), *A Wedding in Hell* and *Hotel Insomnia*.

Edward Hirsch, former UH Creative Writing Program faculty member and current President of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in New York, has written seven collections of poetry, including *Wild Gratitude*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award, *On Love* and *Lay Back The Darkness*. Hirsch has also published four prose books, including *How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry*, a national best-seller. In Hirsch's newest collection, *Special Orders*, he brings together autobiographical pieces to form a picture of his whole life, beginning with his immigrant grandfather.

Inprint/Methodist Hospital Studio Series, Thursday, April 2, 2009, 7:30 pm

Poison Girl, 1641-B Westheimer
Christine Hume is the author of *Musca Domestica*, winner of the Barnard New Women Poets Prize; *Alaskaphrenia*, winner of the Green Rose Award and *Small Press Traffic's* 2005 Best Book of the Year Award; and *Lullaby*, a chapbook.

Bret Anthony Johnston is the author of the internationally acclaimed *Corpus Christi: Stories* and the editor of *Naming the World: And Other Exercises for the Creative Writer*.

Inprint Brown Reading Series, Monday, April 20, 2009, 7:30 pm
Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue

Bill Bryson is the best-selling author of *The Lost Continent*, *The Mother Tongue* and *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Bryson has also written a memoir of growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, in the 50s and 60s, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. His other works include *A Walk in the Woods*, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, *In a Sunburned Country* and his latest work, *Shakespeare: The World as Stage*, a lively biography of the Bard himself.

Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People

Sunday, May 3, 2009, 3 pm
Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby

Sherman Alexie is the author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, his first novel for young adults—which won the 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature—and was based on his own experiences. He will be reading from his second YA novel, *Radioactive Love Song*. His adult works of fiction include the novels *Flight* and *Reservation Blues* and the short story collections *Ten Little Indians* and *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*.

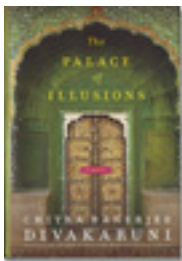


Inprint's Rich Levy at the Hobby Center

Faculty News

Robert Boswell has 3 books coming out. Two came out in July, 2008, and the third comes out in May, 2009. The July books are nonfiction, an account of the search for treasure at Victorio Peak in the nearby Hembrillo Basin, *What Men Call Treasure: The Search for Gold at Victorio Peak*, and a book on the craft of writing fiction, *The Half-Known World*. The third book is a collection of short stories called *The Heyday of the Insensitive Bastards*. He served as faculty at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference this summer.

Chitra Divakaruni received several awards this year. She received the South Asian Literary Association Distinguished Author Award 2007, the Alumna of the Year award from International House, University of California, Berkeley, 2008, and the Champion of Literacy Award from the Houston Literacy Advance Council, 2007. She published her novel, *The Palace of Illusions* (Doubleday, 2008). Books and stories optioned for movies in 2007 and 2008 are *The Conch Bearer*, "The Maid Servant's Story" and *The Vine of Desire*. In 2007, her novel, *Mistress of Spices*, was translated into Russian and the novel, *Queen of Dreams*, was translated into German, Spanish and Indonesian.



Mark Doty's *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems* was published by

HarperCollins in March. The book contains selections from twenty years of work plus a group of new poems, which are also being published as a separate volume this fall in the U.K. called *Theories and Apparitions*. His 2007 memoir, *Dog Years*, appeared in paperback in the U.S., and was also published in the United Kingdom, France and Italy. The French edition is pretty funny, since its title is *Les Annees-Chien: Une Vie D'Homme Qui Aimait les Chiens*, and features two huge retrievers in profile on the cover. "It looks ready for the French version of Wal-Mart".

Mark and his partner, **Paul Lisicky**, were guest professors at Cornell University in the spring. This summer they're teaching at the Juniper Institute in Amherst, the Napa Valley Writers Conference and at Castle Hill Center for the Arts in Truro, MA. Next spring Mark will be a visitor at Stanford for the spring quarter.

This fall will be Mark's final semester of teaching classes at Houston, though he will still be directing theses and dissertations in the spring. In September, 2009, he'll join the faculty at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where he will be Writer in Residence. Mark finds it hard to leave Houston after ten years of involvement with remarkable students, but he looks forward to taking the train to work and to connecting with a new community of writers and scholars.

Nick Flynn's biggest news this year is the birth of his daughter **Maeve Lulu Taylor Flynn** on January 9th at 1:31 a.m. Other news includes readings and workshops in Ireland, California, Oxford, MS and elsewhere. He had poems and non-fiction pieces in *Tin House*, *Bomb*,

Open City, *Fence* and *Esquire* and was interviewed in the inaugural issue of *Glass Mountain*. His new book, *The Ticking Bomb* (a memoir of bewilderment and America since Abu Gharib) will be published in 2009 by Norton and a play, "Alice Invents a Little Game and Alice Always Wins", will be published in July, 2008 by Faber/Fsg.

Tony Hoagland's big news for the year was probably winning the Jackson Poetry Prize, a \$50,000 award given by a committee of peers for an American poet who has "not yet received national attention." Last year's winner was Elizabeth Alexander. In September Tony attended the Internationales Literatur Festival Berlin in Berlin, and coached young Aryan school children to be less respectful of their elders. In the fall he taught at the Iowa Writer's Workshop: a seminar in spacecraft construction. He has poems coming in *Tikkun*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, "Slate.com", etc. It was a good year of teaching.

Mat Johnson has sold a follow up original graphic novel to Vertigo/Warner Books, publisher of *Incognegro*. The work, tentatively titled *Congo Square*, is set in New Orleans during the disastrous week after the flood walls collapsed due to Hurricane Katrina. Johnson is currently completing the final edits on his latest prose novel, *Pym*, which should be released in 2009.



Antonya Nelson has a book coming out with Bloomsbury next spring (2009). It's a collection of stories, called *Nothing Right*. Toni will be in Vermont a lot this year: at the Vermont College Post MFA Conference; at Bread Loaf; and at the Vermont Studio Center. Her essays continue to appear in Texas Monthly and a story is forthcoming in Epoch magazine.

Alex Parsons, "pallid, light-sensitive, and looking a little like Gollum", has just emerged from the redrafting basement with his completed third novel, *El Repoman*. The book is a satirical murder mystery that revolves around car repossession, loan sharks, the debt-collection industry, Georgia O'Keeffe and low-riders. A preview is available in an excerpt, "Guerilla Repo," featured in Columbia College's F Magazine. A short story, "Attention Passengers: Are You Ready for Operation Enduring Freedom™?", about Lubbock International Airport's crack team of TSA enforcers (who recently gained notoriety for forcibly removing a woman's nipple rings), is online at www.freightstories.com.

Robert Phillips had another one of his poems, "Headlines", read by Garrison Keiller on his "Prairie Home Companion" radio program. He also had poems published in *The Music Lover's Poetry Anthology*, along with fellow CWP faculty members **Mark Doty** and **Tony Hoagland**, and he had two poems published in *The Weight of Addition: An Anthology of Texas Poetry* edited by UH alum **Randall Watson** (Ph.D., 1995). Prof. Phillips edited *Coda: Last Poems of Karl Shapiro* from the Texas Review Press. He gave readings at the Barnes and Noble Houston Writers' Festival, the 2007 Meeting of the

Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers and at the UH Honors College. He attended the PEN Literary Awards, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Ceremonial and The Poets Prize, all in New York City and served as an advisor for the Heinz Foundation in Pittsburg. He continues as a nominator for the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation creative writers awards in New York City.



Visiting Faculty

*This is a particularly good year for visiting faculty. In the fall, poets **Matthew Zapruder** and **Martha Serpas** will join the faculty and in the spring poet **Barbara Hamby** will teach at UH.*

Fall 2008

Mathew Zapruder is the author of two poetry collections, *American Linden* (winner of the Tupelo Press Editor's Prize) and *The Pajamaist*. He has also published a translation, *Secret Weapon: The Late Poems of Eugen Jebeleanu*. He is founder and the editor-in-chief of Verse Press (now Wave Books), and he teaches one semester a year at the New School in NYC.

Martha Serpas is the author of two books, *Cote Blanche* and *The Dirty Side of the Storm*. Martha is an associate professor of English at the Uni-

versity of Tampa, and she has also taught at Yale Divinity School.

Spring 2009

Barbara Hamby is writer-in-residence in the English Department at Florida State University. She is the author of three collections of poetry: *Babel: poems* (winner of the Associated Writing Programs' Donald Hall Prize), *The Alphabet of Desire* (winner of the New York University Prize in Poetry) and *Delirium: poems*.

Writers in Residence

In February 2009, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, **Richard Ford** will be writer-in-residence at UH for two weeks. Ford's novels include: *A Piece of My Heart*, *The Ultimate Good Luck*, *The Sportswriter*, *Wildlife*, *Independence Day* and *The Lay of the Land*. His short story collections are: *Rock Springs*, *Women with Men: Three Stories*, *A Multitude of Sins* and *Vintage Ford*. Over three plus decades, Richard Ford has established himself as one of the finest writers of his generation. His work is marked by a careful attention to the meanings that inhere in the life of ordinary people. During his two week residency, he will meet in class four times with students, discussing developments in modern and contemporary literature.

A Tribute to Faith

Faith Venverloh passed away on April 24th of this year. For many years she was the heart and soul of this Program. She's missed by those who knew her. Here are some of the thoughts they have shared.



“Faith was deeply kind to each of us in the program. She was more like an older sister to me than an aunt, given that I was nearly her age, and as I think of her now I remember a moment during one of the many parties for CWP students and faculty she hosted. Some of us were commenting upon the lovely staircase adjacent to the kitchen, and Faith delighted in telling the story of her sanding and painting the banister and wooden spindles supporting it. This seems to me an apt metaphor for so much of Faith’s life, as one who generously, enthusiastically attended to this world’s work—redeeming the tedium of prosaic detail, preparing a path that others might climb.”

Robin Davidson, Alum

“I learned so much from Faith and to this day my work ethic is one that she taught me. I truly believe my career has been so successful because Faith taught me to work hard, be honest and maintain a sense of humor with the people I work and with myself. I will cher-

ish my memories of her and try to be testament to all she taught me.”

Lourdes Gomez-Former CWP Program Coordinator

“What I’d say about Faith was that she always seemed to know what to do. Her knowledge and patience definitely eased my move to Texas. Also, she understood hospitality--this really struck me during one of our early Welcome/Welcome Back parties which she hosted at her home. EVERYONE came, and she was just a great hostess, very relaxed. I really felt welcomed into the program, and Faith had a lot to do with that.”

Joni Tevis, Alum

“Faith disentangled me from many a bureaucratic tangle at UH, for which I’ll always be grateful -- but even more importantly, I can say that if she had not given me Raj’s phone number and tipped him off that maybe I liked him, the two of us may never have gone on our first date, gotten married, and little Lila might never have been born! We’d laugh about this with her whenever we ran into her after she left the program, and then update her about the goings on of the many students whose lives and careers she had touched. Faith was a generous, loving, artistic spirit I feel lucky to have known, and I’ll miss her.”

Miah Arnold, Alum and Student

“The most constant force in the Creative Writing Program during my years as an MFA and PhD candidate, Faith was the person I felt I could always go to for anything. When I stepped into her office she listened and made me feel com-

fortable. Later, I enjoyed spending time sitting across from her desk and chatting, and I have fond memories of helping her clean up after some of the CWP parties she hosted.”

Laurie Clements Lambeth, Alum

“I remember well, trudging up the Roy Cullen stairs to the CWP office, feeling not a little ‘what-the-hell-am-I-doing’ angst after a 12-year private sector hiatus from graduate school. But then, there was Faith, beaming at me, telling me to come in, putting my mind instantly at ease, practically patting my head, small-talking me down from the ledge, then easing me out with all of the essential papers, instructions and contact information, her sweet ‘let me know what I can do’ trailing behind the always open door. And that was that. Head up, shoulders back; I was back in business.”

Charlie Alcorn, Alum

“Faith is connected to my very earliest memories of the University of Houston. She actually let me stay at her house in Montrose when I visited Houston to check out the program. Those of us who attended UH in the 90’s will recall many of the CWP program’s gatherings were held at Faith’s home. She really cared about the students. She even cared long after she left UH. Faith was one of my very favorite people at Houston and I always felt she personified the generous spirit of the CWP program.”

Cate Marvin, Alum

“During my years as a student at UH, I knew Faith not only as a stellar administrator, but also as a

constant, welcoming presence to all students. We kept in touch after I graduated. We met up at least once a year in the Bay area whenever she came out to visit her son, Jon, and his family.

This past December I was thrilled to have Faith attend my wedding in Miami. Her passion for the arts, her love of family, and her response to those who create art infused her spirit with energy and a light which still kindles strong. In all the lives she touched, it will never go out.”

Elline Lipkin, Alum

“I remember Faith as a generous and kind woman, genuine and compassionate. We enjoyed her gracious hospitality when she opened her home for receptions and parties. She looked after us

students. She anticipated my missing divinity school and arranged for me to teach a writing workshop at her Lutheran Church. She stayed in touch, contacting Audrey and me when she was in Florida so we could visit. I consider now how

much her welcome and constancy supported our studies and writing, and I’m grateful for her presence while I was at UH.”

Martha Serpas, Alum



Calendar of Events

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 7 (Sun.) | <i>Jack Gantos for Cool Brains!, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |
| September 15 (Mon.) | <i>Junot Diaz for Brown Reading Series, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |
| October 6 (Mon.) | <i>Anne Enright and Ann Patchett for Brown Reading Series, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |
| October 16 (Th.) | <i>Cate Marvin and Karen Shepard for Studio Series, Antidote Coffee</i> |
| October 26 (Sun.) | <i>David Macaulay for Cool Brains!, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |
| November 10 (Mon.) | <i>Natasha Trethewey and John Edgar Wideman for Brown Reading Series, at Neuhaus Stage, Alley Theatre</i> |
| January 12 (Mon.) | <i>Geraldine Brooks for Brown Reading Series, Levit Haikin Auditorium, Jewish Community Ctr.</i> |
| February 7 (Sat.) | <i>Poets and Writers Ball, at Houston Country Club, Rabih Alameddine, guest speaker</i> |
| February 16 (Mon.) | <i>Ha Jin for Brown Reading Series, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |
| March 9 (Mon.) | <i>Richard Price for Brown Reading Series, at Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre</i> |
| March 30 (Mon.) | <i>Charles Simic and Ed Hirsch for Brown Reading Series, Kaplan Theatre, Jewish Community Ctr.</i> |
| April 2 (Thurs.) | <i>Christine Hume and Bret Anthony Johnston for Studio Series, Poison Girl</i> |
| April 20 (Mon.) | <i>Bill Bryson for Brown Reading Series, at Cullen Theater, Wortham Center</i> |
| May 3 (Sun.) | <i>Sherman Alexie for Cool Brains!, at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center</i> |

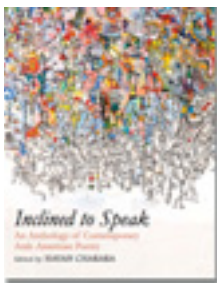
Student News

Lauren Berry (M.F.A., Poetry) and **Craig Beaven** (Ph.D., Poetry) were nominated by UH's poetry faculty to receive the Sewanee Writers' Conference Scholarship.

Matt Boyleston (Ph.D., Poetry) gave a reading at the Regional American Conference for Irish Studies and had poems published in the [Pawhatan Review](#), [Puerto del Sol](#) and the [Flint Hills Review](#). He graduated in the spring and has been named Assistant Professor for creative writing- poetry at Houston Baptist University.

Chuck Carlise (Ph.D., Poetry) was offered fellowship residencies at Wildacres retreat in Little Switzerland, NC, and at the Writer's Colony at Dairy Hollow, in Eureka Springs, AK. He also attended the Nebraska Summer Writer's Conference in Lincoln, NE, as well as the Squaw Valley Writer's Conference in Nevada City, CA. Looks like Chuck had a busy summer!

Hayan Charara's (Ph.D., Poetry) *Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry* was published by the University of Arkansas Press. His own poems also appeared in the new Norton anthology, *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond*. At the AWP conference, he served on a panel discussing Arab writings on war, and this year he was also invited to become a full member of PEN American Center.



Eric Ekstrand (M.F.A., Poetry) is having poems published in [Poetry Magazine](#).

Susan Howard (Ph.D., Fiction) is scheduled to present a paper at a Harry Potter conference at Oxford University's Magdalen College this July. The topic of her paper is "'Slaves No More' --- the Harry Potter series as a Postcolonial Slave Narrative".

In other words she's addressing the enslavement of the house elves in the series by way of analysis of Dobby, Winky, Kreacher and the house elves who work as slaves in the Hogwart's kitchen. Susan also presented a paper at a Harry Potter conference last July at the University of Westminster in London titled, "On Being 'The Other' in Harry Potter" where she analyzed the issues of racism/discrimination against Mudblood and Pureblood wizards in the series. OK, she's become a bit of a Harry Potter expert (which is why she's going to teach two Harry Potter themed lit courses at Indiana University and Purdue University-Fort Wayne). Presenting these papers gives her an opportunity to have university funded trips to England for academic purposes.

Peter Hyland (M.F.A., Poetry) graduated in December. He recently had poems come out in the [Pebble Lake Review](#) and in [Ecotone](#). In June, he left his position as Senior Development Writer at Houston Grand Opera and started his tenure as Inprint's new Development Director.

Anna Journey (Ph.D., Poetry) is about to begin her second year as a Ph.D. candidate in creative writing and literature at the University of Houston, where she also serves as a poetry editor for [Gulf Coast](#). She's won the Diner Poetry Contest, the [Sycamore Review](#) Wabash Prize for Poetry, and fellowships from Yaddo and Bread Loaf. Her poetry appears in [The American Poetry Review](#), [FIELD](#), the [Kenyon Review](#), the anthology *Best New Poets 2006* (Samovar,

2006) and elsewhere. Her critical essays are published in [Blackbird](#), [Literary Imagination](#), and [Notes on Contemporary Literature](#) and her essay on the contemporary elegy is forthcoming in [Parnassus: Poetry in Review](#).

Irene Keliher (M.F.A., Fiction) placed third in the [Atlantic Monthly](#) Student Writing Contest for nonfiction, and two of her stories were finalists in the [Glimmer Train](#) Very Short Fiction and [Third Coast](#) Fiction contests.

Lisa Lee (M.F.A., Non-fiction) had poems published this year in [Tusculum Review](#), [Pebble Lake Review](#), and [Reed Magazine](#). She also received an Inprint/Barthelme Fellowship in fiction, and she is a new nonfiction editor for [Gulf Coast](#). Lisa wants to get an Old English Sheep Dog this summer but is afraid it would be cruel because of the Houston weather. She is thinking about getting one and shaving him. **Mike Powers** (M.F.A., Fiction), who lives with Lisa, thinks they should get a bulldog instead.

Kimberly Meyer (Ph.D., Non-fiction) just completed her Ph.D., and has had an essay accepted for publication in the [Oxford American](#) on the Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine, FL, and the history of that legend. Kim attended Bread Loaf on a tuition scholarship this summer.

Keya Mitra (Ph.D., Fiction) has been in India on a Fulbright grant in creative writing, working on a nonfiction manuscript about her grandfather's experiences in Hyderabad post-independence. She's officially affiliated with the University of Kolkata and has had the opportunity to travel around India. Keya volunteered with street children and orphans through the organization Udayan Care and at Loreto House, a school in Kolkata. She's on her way to Bangalore, where she'll volunteer with underprivileged children and women at

the George Foundation. She has a story forthcoming in Torpedo.

Edward Mullany (M.F.A., Fiction) graduated in the spring and he's getting married in August to **Anjali Khosla**. His fiction was accepted by Alaska Quarterly Review. He was a finalist in Sonora Review's 2008 Short-Short Story Contest and was also a finalist for the 2008 Hudson Book Prize in fiction. Ed was a winner of a 2007-2008 Barthelme Memorial Poetry Fellowship.

Kathryn Paterson (Ph.D., Fiction) presented a paper at a conference and says that she's endlessly working on her novel, which feels like it will never be finished. She is still teaching at the prison near Alvin, TX. She reports that her prison guys did well in the national PEN Prison competition again. They took a second, third and honorable mention in playwriting and several other honorable mentions in other categories. The man who won second place in playwriting has served his term and is out in "the free world," still writing plays and teaching his daughter how to write too. And, Kathryn bought a house.

Kent Shaw (Ph.D., Poetry) had poems published this last year in AGNI, Colorado Review, Third Coast, The Literary Review, Mississippi Review, Greensboro Review, Laurel Review, American Literary Review and Tampa Review. His first book, *Calenture*, was published this last spring by University of Tampa Press.



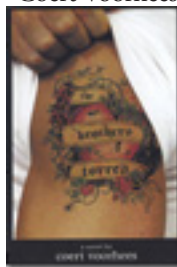
Matthew Siegel's (M.F.A., Poetry) poems have recently appeared in Cimarron Review and Paterson Literary Review

and are forthcoming in Salt Hill. He continues to work on and write reviews for Pebble Lake Review. This summer he will be working on his foreign language requirement in central Mexico. His mother is not thrilled.

Bradford Gray Telford's (Ph.D., Poetry) poetry and translations appeared in many journals this year including Bomb, Southwest Review, Ninth Letter, and Columbia. He won the University of Houston's Verlaine Poetry Prize, a Morton Marr Poetry Prize from Southwest Review, and was selected as the graduate commencement speaker by UH's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. In Spring 2009, the Waywiser Press will publish *Perfect Hurt*, Brad's first book of poems, while his translation of French poet Genevieve Huttin's book *The Story of My Voice* is set to appear Fall 2009 from Host Publications. He is currently a Writing Fellow in the Department of English.

Sruthi Thekkiam's (Ph.D., Fiction) story, "The Weekly Bus Ride", was published in Blackbird, and was nominated for a Pushcart.

Coert Voorhees



Brandon White (M.F.A., Fiction) has been "gigging" around Texas with **Shatera Anderson**, our CWP Office Coordinator. He plucks the guitar, she sings. He's also been working on a manual for literature majors and creative writing majors to get along. It should be hitting U of H book stores in 09.

Jacob White (Ph.D., Fiction) received an Inprint/Barthelme Memorial Fellow-

ship in Fiction this year. He has had fiction published in The Georgia Review, Third Coast and other journals. He is currently living in upstate New York.



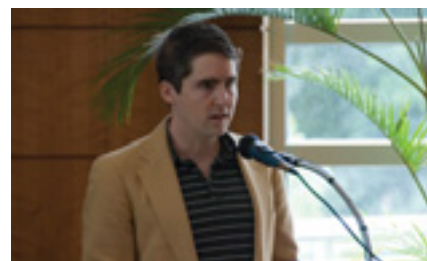
Cedilnek Forms Class



Thanksgiving Football Game



CWP Prom Night



Kent Shaw, introducing Robert Hass.



Nicole Zaza and her senior memoir class.

Incoming Students

This year, the Creative Writing Program welcomes 19 new students- eleven in fiction, seven in poetry and one in creative non-fiction.

Fiction

Donnelly, William, Ph.D.
B.A., College of William and Mary
M.F.A., Univ. of Iowa

Dubois, Danielle, M.F.A.
B.A., Rice Univ.

Garretson, Colin, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Pennsylvania

Ha, Christine, M.F.A.
B.B.A., Univ. of Texas at Austin

Koh, Jane, M.F.A.
B.A., Amherst College

Lim, Thea, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Toronto

Olson, Briana, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Washington

Porter, Edward, Ph.D. (Deferred from Fall 2007)
B.A., Tufts Univ.
M.F.A., Warren Wilson College

Taylor, David, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Texas at Austin
M.A., Univ. of Texas at Austin
D.Ed., Univ. of Houston

Wilbanks, Jessica, M.F.A.
B.A., Hampshire College

Wisher, Dane, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Virginia

Poetry

Amadon, Samuel, Ph.D.
B.A., Columbia Univ.
M.F.A., Boston Univ.

Dustin, Ryler, M.F.A.
B.A., Western Washington Univ.

Engel, Laura, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Virginia

Fisher, Adrienne, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Virginia

Joseph, Janine, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of California at Riverside
M.F.A., New York Univ.

Kocher, Eric, M.F.A.
B.A., State Univ. of New York at Binghamton

Slavcheva, Polina, M.F.A.
B.A., American Univ. of Bulgaria

Non-Fiction

West, Allyn, Ph.D.
B.S., Ball State Univ.
M.F.A., New Mexico State Univ.

Graduates

Fall 2007

Casey Fleming, M.F.A., Fiction
Brad Hipps, M.F.A., Fiction
Peter Hyland, M.F.A., Poetry
Edward Mullany, M.F.A., Fiction
Olga Feliciano, M.F.A., Fiction
Loren Kwan, M.F.A., Poetry

Spring 2008

Andrew Brininstool, M.F.A., Fiction
Justin Glasser, M.F.A., Fiction
Christopher Munde, M.F.A., Poetry
Brian Nicolet, M.F.A., Poetry
Sophie Rosenblum, M.F.A., Fiction
Brian Russell, M.F.A., Poetry
Cecily Sailer, M.F.A., Fiction
Glenn Shaheen, M.F.A., Poetry

Darin Ciccotelli, Ph.D., Poetry
Scott Elliott, Ph.D., Fiction
Lacy Johnson, Ph.D., Poetry
Kimberly Meyer, Ph.D., Non-Fiction
Kate Schmitt, Ph.D., Poetry
Vanessa Stauffer, Ph.D., Poetry
Bradford Gray Telford, Ph.D., Poetry
Jeanine Walker, Ph.D., Poetry
Jacob White, Ph.D., Fiction



A sampling of readers from the Inprint Contest Winners Reading held at Brazos Bookstore in April 2008.

Writing Competitions

The Creative Writing Program's 2007 – 2008 writing competitions were judged by Connie Voisine for poetry, Kevin McIlvoy for fiction and Luc Sante for non-fiction.

Inprint/Diana P. Hobby
Prize in Fiction
Miah Arnold

Inprint/Paul Verlaine
Prize in Poetry
Bradford Gray Telford

Inprint/Joan and Stanford Alexander Prize in Non-Fiction in honor of Andrea White
Kristine Ervin

Inprint/Barthelme Memorial Fellowships
Jacob White- Fiction
Lisa Lee- Fiction
Edward Mullany- Poetry
Mike Jones- Non-Fiction

Inprint/Lucille Joy
Prize in Poetry
Darin Ciccotelli

Brazos Bookstore/Academy of American Poets Prize
Christopher Munde

Honorable Mentions
Hayan Charara & Kelly Moore

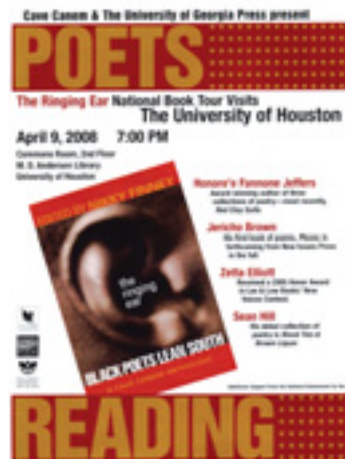
Cave Canem

In April 2008, the University of Houston Creative Writing Program sponsored a reading by Cave Canem in conjunction with the release

of their new anthology, *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*. Award-winning poet Honore'e Fannone Jeffers read from several of her collections. And two recent University of Houston graduates—Jericho Brown and Sean Hill—also read from their debut collections. Jericho Brown is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of San Diego, and Sean Hill is a Stegner fellow at Stanford University. Jericho's first book is entitled *Please*, and Sean's collection is *Blood Ties & Brown Liquor*. Needless to say, it was a great pleasure to have Jericho and Sean return to UH as part of the Cave Canem reading. The reading was well attended, and part of the audience were students who Jericho had taught at an Inprint workshop for senior citizens. The English Department hosted a reception following the reading.



*Jericho Brown and Sean Hill read at the Honors College in April 2008 in support of the release of *The Ringing Ear*.*



Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts

The collaborative arts class should be a requirement for all writers in the Creative Writing Program. It gave me the opportunity to witness what happens to ideas, how others react to words and how people filter language into what they want it to become. The key is to take that knowledge and apply it to the writing craft.

Imagine being placed in a random group of six people, all artists with different talents. Writers, painters, actors, directors, opera singers, sculptors all mixed together then asked to produce an art project. That situation is definitely a head-scratcher. Tension and misunderstandings were a given. Everyone in the group had a different vision of what art was to them, trying to mesh those visions into a solid project was a challenge.

Observing the way people listened and how they filtered information, myself included, was a humbling experience. More often than not, ideas bounced against each other, some not necessarily shot down, but would disappear for a while and pop up later on through someone else's plan. It was almost like the meshing of visions had to grow subconsciously for a week or two before everyone could accept it.

I can't overstate how much I learned from the class, and I would recommend it to anyone in the program that was looking for a change of pace.

Brandon White

Gulf Coast

We know you've heard the saying before. You may have wondered, Is it true? Is everything really bigger in Texas?

We here at Gulf Coast are happy to tell you that the rumor is indeed true. The student-run journal at the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program is proud to publish over three-hundred-and-twenty-five pages of the best in contemporary art, fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

This past year has been an exciting one at Gulf Coast. Our thriving, Texas-sized journal was recognized in June on both "Poetry Daily" and "Verse Daily". "Poetry Daily" featured "Sisters," a poem by the late Grace Paley. "Verse Daily" featured Brenda Shaughnessy's "First Date, and Still Very, Very Lonely." We're thrilled to see these poems recognized, and we thank "Poetry Daily" and "Verse Daily" for their efforts.

Gulf Coast's Summer/Fall Issue 20.2 also features new poems from Cornelius Eady, Kathleen Graber, Thylia Moss, D.A. Powell, Donald Revell, and Tomaz Salamun—plus an exclusive chapter from Franck André Jammé's *On the Proliferation of Breaches and Obstacles*, a new translation of Dmitry Golynko's long poem "Sashenka, or The Diary of an Ephemeral Death," and Mary Ruefle's erasure text "Friends with Fur and Feathers".

For the fiction-inclined, we have new stories by Lucy Corin, Blase Patrick Drexler and Suzanne Warren, plus an excerpt from Ernesto Quiñonez's *Taina's Song*. We're also proud to showcase some of the most accomplished nonfiction authors working today—April Freely, M.J. Iuppa, Paul Lisicky, Dinty W. Moore and D.J. Waldie. More-

over, we have interviews with Arthur Sze, **Vikram Chandra** and Robert Leleux; John Weir on Jack Kerouac; and the Art of the Second Book.

When our Summer/Fall Issue was released in April, we were lucky to hold our release party at the Museum of Printing History. The event included a reading by celebrated poet Mary Ruefle, and the museum provided our guests with intricate, freshly-printed broadsides of Ruefle's poem "Jaroslav" (forthcoming in Gulf Coast's Issue 21.1). April was packed with Gulf Coast events, as the journal hosted its second CLMP Small Press/Houston Indie Book Festival that had the patio at Domy Bookstore brimming with discounted journals and books, and drew large crowds for the on-the-hour readings by CWP faculty member **Mat Johnson** and outgoing Gulf Coast Fiction Editor **David MacLean**.

If it's readings you're looking for, Houston can offer you a Texas-sized dose of those, too. The Gulf Coast Reading Series, voted "Best Reading Series" by Houston Press in 2004, continued to fill Brazos Bookstore to capacity this year by featuring eclectic readings from more than twenty CWP students. In November, the Gulf Coast editors also read at the Poison Pen Reading Series, held monthly at favorite Houston nightspot Poison Girl bar.

As we look ahead to our next issue, we're happy to announce the recipients of the Gulf Coast \$1,000 Prizes. First, novelist Jennifer Egan tabbed Sarah Cornwell's "Boyland" to receive the Gulf Coast Fiction Prize. Rubén Martínez awarded the Gulf Coast Nonfiction Prize to Kisha Lewellyn Schlegel for her essay "Kisha Club." Finally, Natasha Trethewey chose Jonathan Rice's "Inheritance" for the Gulf Coast Poetry Prize. Congratulations

to the winners, and our thanks to all who entered the contest.

Here in our office, we are relishing the Texas-sized air conditioning and putting the finishing touches on Gulf Coast Winter 2008/Spring 2009, which is shaping up to be another incredible issue. This Gulf Coast will feature new poems by Heather McHugh, Carl Dennis, Mahmoud Darwish, Dana Levin, Campbell McGrath, Forrest Hamer, Terese Svoboda, John Yau and sections from Alice Notley's noir poem, "Negativity's Kiss". Plus, we have an excerpt from Barry Hannah's new novel, *Sick Soldier at Your Door*, a novella by Flannery O'Connor Award-winning author Christopher McIlroy, and nonfiction by Thalia Field, Sandy Florian, Titos Patrikios and Lauren Slater.

Subscriptions to Gulf Coast are available at \$30 for two-years (a savings of \$6 off the cover price) and \$16 for one-year (\$2 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, you can subscribe at our website: Checkout www.gulfcoastmag.org.



Alumni News

Charlie Alcorn (Ph.D., 2006) is Manager Editor of American Book Review and was recently named Managing Editor of the Fiction Collective 2, an independent press specializing in innovative fiction. Both ABR and FC2 are housed at UH-Victoria where Charlie teaches in the English Department and directs the UHV/ABR Reading Series.

Christopher Bakken (Ph.D., 1999) spent last spring serving as a Fulbright Scholar in American Studies at the University of Bucharest, Romania. The Texas Institute of Letters awarded his second book, *Goat Funeral*, the Helen C. Smith Memorial Prize for the best book published in 2006. The TIL also named his collection of Titos Patrikios translations as a finalist for the best book of translations in 2006. Christopher's new poems are finding their way into print in places like Ploughshares, Third Coast and The Seattle Review. He has also written a long essay on olive-picking on the island of Thasos that's about to be published by Parnassus: Poetry in Review.

Kerry Neville Bakken (Ph.D., 2000) was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters' Kay Cattarulla Award for the Best Short Story. She also received the Devil's Kitchen Literary Festival/University of Illinois at Carbondale Award for the Best Book of 2006-2007. Her work has most recently appeared in The Gettysburg Review.

Jeff Bernard (M.F.A., 2003) and **Julie Chisholm** (Ph.D., 2002) re-

port that **Sophie Maluhialani** and **Lucy Noelani Bernard** were born June 2, 2008, a month early, but they are totally healthy. Their parents think they are pretty dang cute. Jeff and Julie live in Napa, CA. She's still teaching English at Cal Maritime and he's studying for his social work license exam. Julie says that, unfortunately, the only writing she's been doing is for tenure: an essay on technology is forthcoming in the summer issue of Liberal Education. Jeff is still plugging away at a poetry manuscript, but not sending work out.



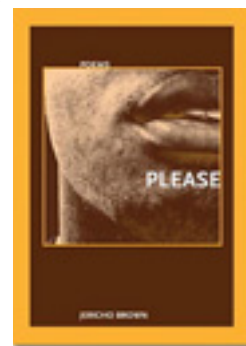
Sophie & Lucy

David Bernardy (Ph.D., 2006) and **Joni Tevis** (Ph.D., 2001) sent their news together this year. It has been a productive year in Chapel Hill. Joni taught at UNC and David taught at NC State, and they both got good work done on new manuscripts. They moved to South Carolina this summer, and both will start teaching at Furman University in the fall. A definite highlight of the year, for Joni, was visiting Houston in March to present at a memoir workshop at HCC-Central. Everyone seemed to have a great time during the meet-and-greet and got a tour of the Houston Ship Channel. Joni says, "Ask **Emily Fox Gordon** and I bet she will agree with me--it was fabulous!"

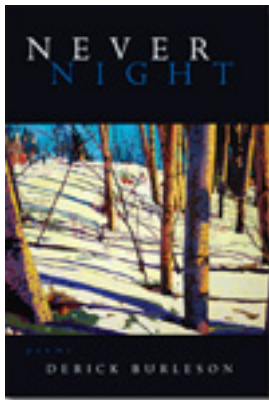
Ann Bogle's (M.F.A., 1994) short stories appeared this year in Big Bridge and Minnetonka Review. Poems appeared in Madhatters' Revue. She meets in New York with a small group of women writers, who critique her weblog, "Ana Verse", and has become a habitue of the Bowery Poetry Club. Last year she served as grant panelist in prose for the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Shannon Borg (Ph.D., 1999) currently writes the wine column for Seattle magazine, and her second book, *Chefs on the Farm: Inspired Lessons and Recipes from the Quil-lisascut Farm School of the Domestic Arts*, will be published by Skipstone Press in October, 2008.

Jericho Brown (Ph.D., 2007) just completed his first year as an Assistant Professor of English at the University of San Diego. Since this past spring, he's had poems published in Indiana Review, The Journal, Pleiades, Post Road, and Prairie Schooner. His first book, *Please*, is now available from New Issues. Along with fellow alum, **Sean Hill** (M.F.A., 2004), and Honoree Fanonne Jeffers, he read at UH as part of Cave Canem's *The Ringing Ear* national book tour event.



Derick Burleson (Ph.D., 2001) is the author of *Never Night* (Marick Press 2008). His first collection of poems, *Ejo: Poems, Rwanda 1991-94*, won the 2000 Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry. His poems have appeared in The Georgia Review, The Kenyon Review, The Paris Review, Poetry and many other journals. A recipient of a 1999 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, Derick teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and lives with his partner and daughter in Two Rivers.



Cathleen Calbert (Ph.D., 1989) published her book of poems, *Sleeping with a Famous Poet*. She's also had poems published recently in Pool, The Southern Review, and TriQuarterly.



Katherine Center, signing books

Vikram Chandra (M.F.A., 1992) and his wife, **Melanie**, had a new baby girl in May.

In other news, his book, *Sacred Games*, won the 2006 Hutch Crossword Award for English Fiction (India), a Salon Book Award (USA), and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction (USA). It was also included in:

"Books of the Year," The Independent (UK),

"Books of the Year," Financial Times (UK),

"Pick of the Month," January 2007, "Booksense" (USA),

"10 Best Asian Books of 2006," Time (Asia Edition),

"Best Fiction of 2006," Guardian (USA),

"The Fiction List for 2006," "Bloomberg.com" (USA)

"Notable Books," Sahara Time (India)

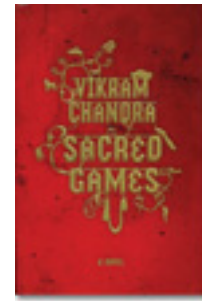
"Fiction of the Year," Business Standard (India)

"Best Books," Man's World (India)

"Roll of Honour," The Financial Express (India)

"Notable Books," San Francisco Chronicle (USA)

Vikram and Melanie are both teaching at UC Berkeley, and going between California and Bombay.



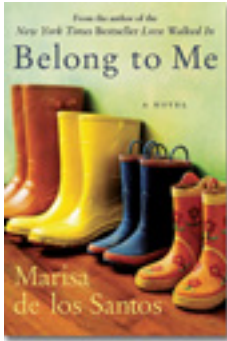
Katharine Coles



Tracy Daugherty (Ph.D., 1985) was named Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at Oregon State Univ. He also presented a reading at UH and participated in residencies with 10 of our Creative Writing students in the spring.

Marisa de los Santos (Ph.D., 1996) and her family are still living happily in Wilmington, Delaware. Her husband, **David Teague**, sold his first children's book to Hyperion earlier this year and is finishing a middle grades novel. Marisa's writing a third novel and promoting her second one, *Belong to Me* (William Morrow), which came out in early April and appeared on some bestseller lists, including the New York Times. She's taking a lot of adult ballet classes (says she seems to be addicted to them) and doing loads of volunteer work at

her kids' school. She can't seem to say no to those Quakers! Marisa adds, "The family went to Sedona and the Grand Canyon in March, both of which were beautiful, of course. The Grand Canyon was very, very, very big. Life is good."



Rebecca Flowers



Annie Finch's (M.A., 1986) 1994 anthology, *A Formal Feeling Comes: Poems in Form by Contemporary Women*, that she began while editing Stanford's literary magazine, *Sequoia*, was reissued in winter 2006 by Wordtech Editions. Also this year, *Letters to the World: Poems from the Women's Poetry Listserv*, with a preface by Annie who founded this international listserv in 1997, was published by Red Hen Press. This year her poems appeared in journals including *Barrow Street*, *Feminist Studies in Religion* and *Prairie Schooner*, and in anthologies including *Not for Mothers Only* (Fence), *Poetry*

of the Eastern World (Norton) and *Conversation Pieces* (Everyman). Annie is now co-editor, with Marilyn Hacker, of the "Poets on Poetry Series" for University of Michigan Press.

Duane Franklet (M.A., 1989) pulled up stakes from Houston and moved to New Zealand this year. More than anything they went for the adventure. He and his family will be there for 2 years and then take stock on staying longer. They're excited about the change from being in the big city. Nelson is a town of 50,000 or so, on the north end of the south island. It has a great climate and quick access to all sorts of outdoor activities—hiking, mountain biking, kayaking—you get the picture. Duane's going to do some computer work, write what the muse tells him, and work on his organic gardening. **Barbara**, his wife, is doing her printmaking and will be back in the US for a show from time to time. Here's a picture of Duane and his 2 boys, **Dean** and **Andrew**, at the beach of the south island.



Duane and Sons

Greg Fraser's (Ph.D., 1999) co-authored textbook, *Writing Poetry: Creative and Critical Approaches*, will be published by Palgrave Mac-

millan in October. His second collection of poems, *Answering the Ruins*, will come out on Northwestern University Press in April 2009. He is now a tenured associate professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of West Georgia.

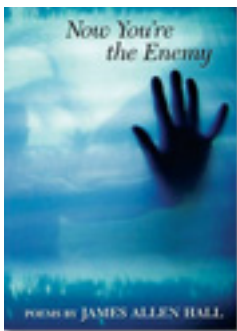


Albert Haley (M.F.A., 1993) says that it was good to be on the UH campus last September for the meeting of the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers (TACWT). He hadn't strolled the grounds since he left Houston back in '97. According to Al, "Much had changed (for the better too), but ol' Roy Cullen still looked plenty familiar." This was a good year for this fiction writer who in recent years has drifted over the line into the exhilarating lane of poetry. Last July, he was accepted into the Squaw Valley Community of Writers poetry workshop. This meant he practiced for a week the "Squaw Valley method." The SVM involves writing a new poem every day and bringing the draft to be work-shopped with a rotation of leaders. In 2007, they had Sharon Olds, Robert Hass, Claudia Rankine, Brenda Hillman and Al's hero, Jimmy Santiago Baca. In May, of this year, he received a three-year appointment to be the James W. Culp Distinguished

Professor of English at Abilene Christian Univ. The appointment carries with it a significant course reduction which he intends to use to complete a first book of poems and a novel in progress.

Also, his poem “Barcelona” was the 1st place winner of the Rattle magazine poetry contest and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His poem “The Hedge” was a finalist (1 of 3) in the Virginia Brendemuehl Poetry Contest sponsored by Rock & Sling: A Journal of Art, Literature and Faith and a poem, “What Binds the World,” was 2nd place winner of the Ruminant Magazine poetry contest.

James Hall (Ph.D., 2006) moved to upstate New York in May, leaving Bethany and Pittsburgh behind. He’s accepted a new job as Assistant Professor of English at SUNY--Potsdam. He read at Brazos Bookstore in April from his new book of poems, *Now You’re the Enemy*. His essays and poems have appeared in TriQuarterly, Boston Review, Redevider and elsewhere. He has taught creative writing and literature at Bethany College in West Virginia for the past two years.



Stephen Haven



Sean Hill (M.F.A., 2004) had his debut collection of poetry, *Blood Ties and Brown Liquor*, published in 2008. He received a two-year Stegner Fellowship from Stanford Univ. The fellowships include tuition and an annual stipend. He was also at the UH as part of the Cave Canem *The Ringing Ear* national book tour event in April.



Cliff Hudder’s (M.F.A., 1995) novella, *Splinterville*, appeared from Texas Review Press in April of 2008, and was the winner of the 2007 Texas Review Fiction Award. He continues, along with CWP alum **Dave Parsons** (M.A., 1991), as a Program Director of the Montgomery County Literary Arts Council, bringing authors of distinction to the “Writers in Performance” reading series in Conroe, Texas. His son, **Dylan**, turns three in October.



Laurie Clements Lambeth’s (Ph. D., 2006) National Poetry Series winning book, *Veil and Burn*, came out in March 2008. Her poetry also appeared in the Texas anthology *The Weight of Addition* and in American Letters & Commentary. She and her husband, **Ian**, adopted a new dog this year, **Breeze**, who is both a joy and a nut basket.



Caroline Langston (M.F.A., 1993) is an occasional commentator for NPR’s “All Things Considered”, blogs for “Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion” (www.image-journal.org), and is working on a memoir. The mother of a four-year old son, **Alexander**, she is married to audio engineer **Brian Jarboe** and works part time for the nonprofit investigative journalism organization, The Center for Public Integrity. She lives in Cheverly, Maryland.

Leah Lax (M.F.A., 2004) and her partner just celebrated three years together. Her opera, “The Refuge”, premiered in November with the Houston Grand Opera and made the front page of the Arts section of the New York Times. She received grants from the Houston Endowment and the Brown Foundation to support her work on *Not From Here: New Americans and Their Journeys*. This is a book collection of annotated monologues from immigrants, from around the world, telling the stories of their journeys to this country. Janice Rubin’s photographs appear throughout. The commentary gives setting, tone, and Leah’s efforts to understand these extraordinary stories. She was Artist in Residence for Inprint this year. That means peaceful space to write the book! She will do a Yaddo residency in August, where she can work on the fifth, and final, draft of her memoir. And then they’re off for three weeks exploring China!



Elline Lipkin (Ph.D., 2003) says that much to her own amazement, she got married on Dec. 8th to **Richard Horowitz**, also an academic (of Asian history) at CSU Northridge and they relocated to Los Angeles just a few months ago. She’s very much looking to con-

nect with any alumni out that way and to finding a new literary community, “never mind a new teaching gig.” Elline had been teaching at UC Berkeley (literature and women’s studies) and starting this fall, she will be a Research Scholar with UCLA’s Center for the Study of Women.

Cate Marvin



Holly Masturzo’s (Ph.D., 1999) work appeared in Ars Medica: A Journal of Humanities, the Arts and Medicine, published by the University of Toronto and Mt. Sinai Hospital. She also launched her consulting practice, Our Ellipses, at www.ourellipses.com, and serves on the board of Axladitsa-Avatakia, a learning community in Pelion, Greece. In 2007, Holly returned to Florida where she taught for Edward Waters College, the historically black college in Jacksonville, before being thrilled to be invited to join the faculty at Florida Community College of Jacksonville to teach art, dance and writing.

Ann McCutchan (M.F.A., 1998) reports that her personal essay, “Love From Afar”, is forthcoming in The Gettysburg Review, and her third book, an essay collection titled *Circular Breathing*, will be published by Sunstone Press (re-

lease date TBA). She’s still teaching creative nonfiction and serving as prose editor for the American Literary Review at the University of North Texas.

Marc McKee (M.F.A., 2003) won DIAGRAM’S 2008 Chapbook Contest for *What Apocalypse?*

Wayne Miller (M.F.A., 2002) is still living in Kansas City and teaching at the University of Central Missouri, where he edits Pleiades and where he was granted tenure last year. He’s also “still living in sin” with **Jeanne Ouellette**, who did her undergrad in English at U of H and is now a psychotherapist at Truman Hospital in Kansas City. In November of 2007, his translation of *I Don’t Believe in Ghosts*, by Albanian poet Moikom Zeqo, was published by BOA Editions as a Lannan selection. In March of this year, Graywolf published *New European Poets*, which he co-edited with Kevin Prufer and 22 “regional editors,” including U of H alums **Christopher Bakken** (Ph.D., 1999), **Michael Dumanis** (Ph.D., 2005), and **Alissa Valles** (M.F.A., 2003). The anthology features 290 European poets (writing in nearly 40 languages) who published their first books after 1970. And, finally, his second collection of poems, *The Book of Props*, is scheduled to be published by Milkweed Editions next spring.



Laurie Newendorp (M.A., 1992) says that since she doesn't have a book cover, she started to send her daughter's. What's the writerly reaction to *Uneasy Reunions: Immigration, Citizenship, and Family Life in Post-1997 Hong Kong* (Nicole Newendorp, Stanford Press, April, 2008) beside *Veil and Burn* (Laurie Clements Lambeth, Ph.D., 2006) and *The Bright Side of Disaster* (Katherine Center, M.F.A., 1998)? She also wishes she could tell us she's engaged to a passionate publisher who says his fantasy is to see her in hardback, but it hasn't happened. "Just think, with no current career news and having lost my beloved **Orpheus**, I could use my picture with Laurie Lambeth's horse, **Hemmingway**, on a book cover (if I had a book), thus showing my love of horses -- actually all animals -- as well as dogs!" Laurie says she loved seeing **Ed Hirsch**, **Stan Plumly**, **Richard Howard**, **Leslie Miller** and **Peter Stitt** (Gettysburg Review; former UH professor) at AWP, NYC.

Greg Oaks (Ph.D., 2001) recently published a story in *Switchback* and a book review in the *American Book Review*. He's teaching at Lonestar College--Tomball and recently received a writing sabbatical for Fall, 2008. He puts on the Poison Pen Reading Series, along with current students, **Casey Fleming** (M.F.A., Fiction) and **David MacLean** (Ph.D., Fiction), and with **Scott Repass**, the owner of Poison Girl.

Dave Parsons (M.A., 1991) has been fortunate to continue his dream teaching schedule at Lone Star College-Montgomery:

one section of Creative Writing and one section of Kinesiology Racquetball/Handball per semester. He's still co-directing, with alum **Cliff Hudder**, the Writers in Performance Series and serving as Chairman of the Conroe Commission on the Arts & Culture. Dave's had poems published this past year in *The Langdon Review*, *New Texas: Journal of Literature & Culture* and *The Weight of Addition: Texas Poetry Anthology*. He has poems forthcoming in *Louisiana Literature* and an anthology to be published by Kent State University Press in 2009. He's also working on *New & Collected Poems from Austin* and trying to figure out a way to not be in Texas in August.

Patty Seyburn's (Ph.D., 2003) third book of poems, *Hilarity*, won the 2008 New Issues Press Green Rose Prize, and will be published in 2009. She's had poems published recently in *Slope*, *Verdad*, *zeek*, *La Fovea*, *Women in Judaism*, *Diagram*, *The Tampa Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Askew* and *5AM*. She's also had poems reprinted on "Poetry Daily" and "verse.com". Patty is currently an assistant professor at California State University, Long Beach. And she's learned how to play mah-jongg.

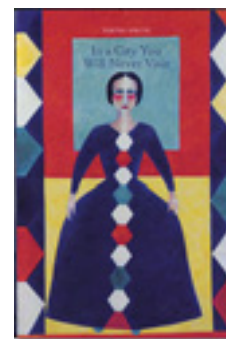
Jacsun Shah (Ph.D., 2005) received an individual artist's grant from the Houston Arts Alliance for 2008, received a small grant from the Puffin Foundation, and spent August 2007 at a writers' retreat, La Muse, in the south of France.

J.D. Smith (M.A., 1989) announced the forthcoming publication of his first children's book, *The Best Maria-*

chi in the World, which will appear in bilingual, English-only and Spanish-only editions. Information on the book is available on the publisher's website: www.raventreepress.com/mariachi_home.html.



Young Smith (Ph.D., 2003) has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kentucky Arts Council. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Poetry*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Iowa Review*, *Pleiades*, *American Literary Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Atlanta Review*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *The New Orleans Review*, and other publications. He is an assistant professor of English at Eastern Kentucky University. He lives with his wife, **Janet Schwartz**, and their daughter, **Harper**, in Lexington, Kentucky.



Amy Spade (M.F.A., 1997) married **Mark Silverman** on June 29 in Healdsburg, CA. He's a software

engineer and stand-up comedian and musician. Best wishes to Amy and Mark for a long and happy life together!

Marilyn Stablein's (M.A., 1984) book, *Sleeping in Caves: A Sixties Himalayan Memoir*, was published in Kathmandu, Nepal, by Pilgrim's Publishing. She gave a reading and workshop at the Harwood Museum in Taos, New Mexico. A catalog, *Microcosm: Collage and Assemblages*, featured work in a solo show at The Outpost Art Space in Albuquerque. She designed the cover collage for Issue #28 of *Rattle Magazine* (A Tribute to Nurses) and a visual poem appeared in issue #29.

Other art was recently exhibited at: Sandy Gallery, Portland, OR; Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Ft. Myers, FL; Gallery Zipp, Glorieta, NM; and The Cradle Project, Albuquerque, NM.

Two book sculptures are featured in the Boston Book Arts traveling show which opened at Yamawaki Art Center, Lasell College, Newton, MA and will travel to: Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, Silver Spring, MD; Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI; Montserrat College Art Gallery, Beverly, MA and end at Wells College, Aurora, NY in May 2009.



Marilynn Talal (Ph.D., 1993) read at the 92nd Street Y in New York as part of the book launch for *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*. At the Society for the Advancement of Judaism she read from her chapbook *Lilly: Her First Decade: A Love Story* and was a panel member discussing "Caring for the Caregiver" at the same venue.

Gail Donohue Storey (M.A., 1982) is becoming a YouTube star while her agent sends around her memoir about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. To see her jump out of a cake to bust some hip-hop moves, go to YouTube.com and search: Gail's 61st Hip Hop Tribute.

Michael Theune



Robert Tinajero (M.F.A., 2004) is currently in the dissertation phase of doctoral studies in Rhetoric and Writing Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. His dissertation, "Hip Hop Rhetoric: Re-landscaping the Rhetorical Tradition," should be done by November. He will be moving to Dallas this summer with his wife, **Cindy**, so she can begin graduate school. He's been working on his website, www.blueletters.com, and has started a small advertising company with two friends: www.Handvertising.com. He is currently looking for

a publisher for his poetry manuscript but is mostly working on his dissertation.

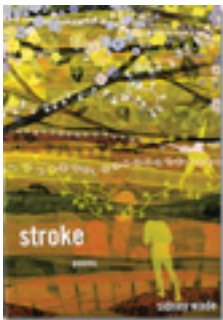
David Ray Vance (Ph.D., 2006) accepted a tenure track position at The University of Texas at San Antonio starting in the fall of 2007. He and his wife, **Catherine Kasper**, continue to co-edit *American Letters & Commentary*, which is now being housed at UTSA. His book, *Vitreous* (Del Sol Press, 2007), has appeared twice on the Poetry Foundation's Best Seller List, first at #19 and almost a year later at #16. David says that if this trend continues it should make #1 around 2014.

Robert Vellani (Ph.D., 2006) is a professor of English at Preston High School in the Bronx.

Karen Volkman's (Ph.D. cand., 1992) book, *Nomina*, was published in spring 2008 by BOA Editions. Her work has been included in recent anthologies, including *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics*, *The Pushcart Book of Poetry* and *A Poetry Criticism Reader*. Karen's translation of Francis Ponge appeared in *Poetry Magazine's* April translation issue, and new poems and essays appear in recent issues of *New American Writing*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Massachusetts Review*, and *American Poet*.

Sidney Wade's (Ph.D., 1984) most recent collection, *Stroke*, was published by Persea Books in January 2008. She rolled off the AWP Board after four years of service, one as President, into green pastures in which she hoped to loll, but, alas, there's always something. She guest-edited the poetry of *Two*

Line's issue number 15 (May 2008) and will offer a reading of "Turkish Poetry in Translation" in San Francisco and also direct an introductory workshop in Translation for the Center for the Art of Translation. She gave a poetry reading from the book at Kadir Has University in Istanbul on May 28. She continues to translate the poems of Guven Turan, Melih Cevdet Anday and Efe Balikcioglu, and she has a fine new website--check it out! www.sidneywade.com. Daughter **Amanda** graduated from DePaul's Theater Conservatory in June 2007 and is making her living waitressing and auditioning in Chicago. Daughter **Elena** is a junior at Eastside High School and is the principal cellist in the Alachua County Orchestra.



will be published in 2009. He is on the Board of Directors of the National Book Critics Circle, a post he has held for six years, and he is Associate Editor of American Book Review, Associate Editor of Boulevard, and Fiction Editor of The Texas Review. For the past four years he has judged the Isherwood Fellowship for Fiction. Last year, renowned portrait artist Don Bachardy painted two portraits of Williamson which are now on display in Santa Monica at the former residence of Christopher Isherwood. Williamson lives on the Texas/Mexico border with his wife, **Judy**, and their two sons, **Guthrie** and **Turner**. He is Professor of Contemporary and Postmodern Literature at the University of Texas, Pan American.

Tiphonie Yanique



Gemini Wahhaj's (Ph.D., 2007) story came out in Granta this year. Her other big news is that her daughter started kindergarten! Gemini is working at Rice University and still living in Houston.

Eric Miles Williamson (M.F.A., 1991) published his third book--this one criticism--*Oakland, Jack London, and Me*. The French edition of his second novel, *Two-Up*, appears in September 2008, and his third novel, *Out of Oakland*,

David Alexander Harvey passed away on July 5, 2008, in Philadelphia, after many years of medical problems. David entered the CWP M.A. program in Fall, 1987. In addition to writing fiction, David had a deep and abiding interest in computer technology. He had worked as a technology journalist and consultant for many years, and had written for some of the country's leading computer magazines. He was a founding editor of Windows User Magazine. Most recently, David had been attending medical school, training to become a pediatrician; he intended to bring his technological expertise to the practice of medicine. David's parents have created a guest book at www.legacy.com/philly/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=112907241



Have you seen the new site?

We mentioned this elsewhere, but it bears repeating; it's new *and* improved. We've got big plans for it in the future, but for now make sure to look around. We'll be putting the current and recent newsletters up and adding more information about the the program and the people who make it great.

Have a look!

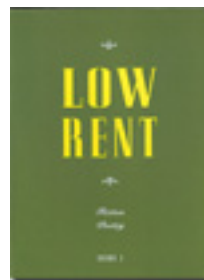
Low Rent



“Longing for the days of Story, puzzled by the dent McSweeney’s makes in one’s budget, and astonished by the circulation of Poetry, **Bill Hughes**, **Jason Koo**, and **Robert Liddell** discussed the possibility of a new journal like Low Rent repeatedly in different places around the country: an old-neighborhood diner in Brooklyn, a swank hillside mini-mansion in Santa Fe, and finally in the sweaty days before a wedding in Central Florida. The idea was simple: publish just the strongest work we could find and celebrate it as though the work were appearing in a well-established quarterly tome. Furthermore, the ideal journal would dispense of the unread bulk of so many of the others, drawing the reader’s attention to just a few pieces; and since it never hurt to fantasize, it was proposed that the ideal journal would be inexpensive to purchase and designed as though someone gave a damn.”

“Of course, the idea languished. Lots of people start little journals, and the competition is tough (note: Gulf Coast). But luckily some infantile outspokenness led to an infantile dare, and the dare led to the first issue of Low Rent a few months

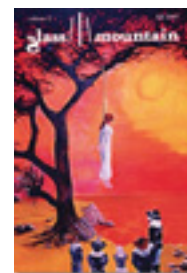
later. Since then the goal has been to find and publish top-notch work by relatively unknown writers and offer their work exposure outside the usual places. The journal features just two short stories and eight poems per issue, with each issue priced at five dollars; and we have, fortunately, managed to put it in the hands of readers in most major cities and regularly receive submissions from all around the world. As of this writing, Low Rent is almost completely supported by readers and subscribers. And though the journal is based in New York, the soul of it is overwhelmingly a result of the University of Houston Creative Writing Program.”



Glass Mountain

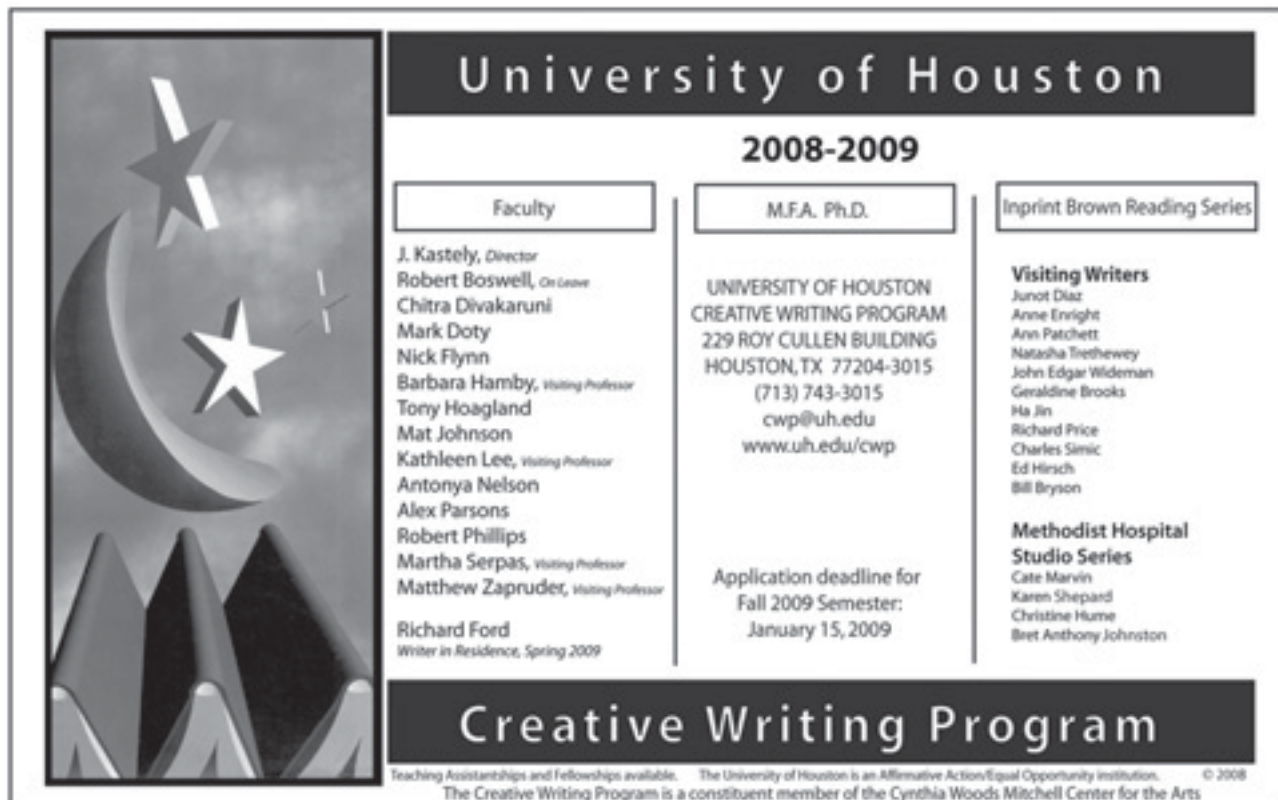
Beginning its third year of publication, Glass Mountain has established itself as a force in the life of undergraduate creative writers at the University of Houston. In addition to publishing two issues last year, Glass Mountain also sponsored open-mike readings, inviting students from University of St. Thomas and Rice University to join their fellow writers at UH in a celebration of writing throughout Houston. In April 2008, students whose work was published in Glass Mountain read in the M. D. Anderson’s Poetry and Prose series, celebrating the publication of the Spring issue. That issue also contained an interview of UH Poetry Professor **Mark Doty**.

Professor **Lynn Voskuil** became the faculty advisor, and that has provided important stability for the journal. The editors and Professor Voskuil work well together, and anticipate another productive year, advancing undergraduate creative writing at UH. The editors encourage all faculty and all graduate students teaching creative writing to encourage their students to submit work to Glass Mountain.



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CWPNews
University of Houston
Creative Writing Program
229 Roy Cullen Building
Houston TX 77204-3015

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The flyer features a vertical image on the left side showing a crescent moon and several stars against a dark, cloudy sky, with a silhouette of a building at the bottom. The text is organized into three columns. The top header reads 'University of Houston' and the year '2008-2009'. The first column, titled 'Faculty', lists names and titles such as J. Kastely, Director, and Robert Boswell, On Leave. The second column, titled 'M.F.A. Ph.D.', provides contact information for the Creative Writing Program, including the address '229 Roy Cullen Building' and the website 'www.uh.edu/cwp'. The third column contains two sub-sections: 'Inprint Brown Reading Series' and 'Visiting Writers', listing names like Junot Diaz and Anne Enright. Below these is the 'Methodist Hospital Studio Series' with names like Cate Marvin and Karen Shepard. The bottom of the flyer features the text 'Creative Writing Program' and a small disclaimer: 'Teaching Assistantships and Fellowships available. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. © 2008 The Creative Writing Program is a constituent member of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts'.

University of Houston

2008-2009

Faculty

J. Kastely, Director
Robert Boswell, *On Leave*
Chitra Divakaruni
Mark Doty
Nick Flynn
Barbara Hamby, *Visiting Professor*
Tony Hoagland
Mat Johnson
Kathleen Lee, *Visiting Professor*
Antonya Nelson
Alex Parsons
Robert Phillips
Martha Serpas, *Visiting Professor*
Matthew Zapruder, *Visiting Professor*

Richard Ford
Writer in Residence, Spring 2009

M.F.A. Ph.D.

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Application deadline for
Fall 2009 Semester:
January 15, 2009

Inprint Brown Reading Series

Visiting Writers

Junot Diaz
Anne Enright
Ann Patchett
Natasha Trethewey
John Edgar Wideman
Geraldine Brooks
Ha Jin
Richard Price
Charles Simic
Ed Hirsch
Bill Bryson

**Methodist Hospital
Studio Series**

Cate Marvin
Karen Shepard
Christine Hume
Bret Anthony Johnston

Creative Writing Program

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