

# The University of Houston Creative Writing Program

Signals2  
NOISE

2015 Newsletter





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Cover: "Signal2Noise" by Katie Shockney (BFA, Graphic Design), Francisco Delgado (BFA, Graphic Design), and Jeff Albers (PhD, Creative Writing). Part of the *Houston Unfold* Creative Mapping Project.

# From the Director...



It feels this year that we are entering into a new and rewarding phase for the program. Although we are still confronting serious challenges (chief among them, an insufficient number of graduate assistantships), many good things happened this past year. We welcomed Roberto Tejada and Audrey Colombe to the Creative Writing faculty, and both have already had an impact on the program. Roberto has expanded significantly the aesthetic of the program, and he has been instrumental in our being able to recruit more Hispanic doctoral students in poetry. In addition to teaching poetry workshops and courses in translation, he will also teach art history in the School of Art—solidifying our collaborative efforts with Art. Audrey took over the responsibilities of being faculty adviser to *Glass Mountain* and *Boldface*, and she is taking the lead in

helping us develop expertise in creative writing pedagogy. As we have begun to rethink the undergraduate creative writing concentration, her efforts have proved invaluable.

We hired Giuseppe Taurino, who, as many of you know, received an MFA from the University of Houston as our new assistant director. Giuseppe was a wonderful hire for the program. He brings a disciplinary knowledge of creative writing, extensive experience in arts administration, and the intelligence, patience, and sound practical judgment that are necessary in a job that makes a myriad of different demands on a person. Giuseppe has led our efforts to be a stronger presence on the web and he is negotiating the complex task of seriously updating our website and making it a better means to inform people about the program and to communicate the successes of our faculty, students, and alumni.

Working with faculty and graduate students in literature, we have formed a poetics group that is fostering discussions on poetry between interested creative writers and literary scholars. The group discussions have generated a healthy collegiality. We had a good inaugural year, and we hope to solidify and expand the discussions next year.

We have been able to provide significant support to our students. We helped fund thirty students to attend this year's AWP (\$7,500). We provided \$103,500 for nine dissertation fellowships, which allowed fifth year doctoral students to have a semester in which they did not have to teach but received full support. We provided eight students with focused research fellowships (\$9,650). We supported five students who attended national conferences and workshops (\$4,850). We made limited funding available to two students to undertake advanced research (\$4,000). And we provided progression fellowships to four students (\$3,500). So we were able to provide total financial support of \$133,000 for current students. As gratifying as this, we would like to increase this support, so we welcome any contributions that alumni would like to make. It is our long-term goal to provide our graduate students with the funding that will ensure that they have the best graduate education that can be provided. We are making significant progress, but we continue to need your help. We appreciate all contributions. Thanks to all who have helped.

Inprint, once again, has been extraordinarily generous, funding the graduate student writing competitions and providing \$150,000 in recruiting fellowships. We have a fine entering class of graduate students, and the general health of the program is very strong.

I am struck this year, as I am every year, by the extraordinarily high quality of the work of both faculty and students, and by the genuine decency of everyone. As always, I feel grateful to be connected to such a community.

As ever,  
j

# Program News

## Creative Mapping

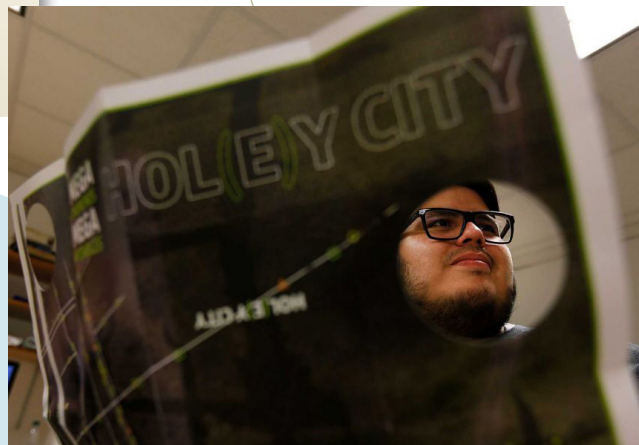
Creative Mapping is a new collaborative course proposed by Professor Peter Turchi and designed and taught by Turchi and Associate Professor of Graphic Design Cheryl Beckett. The course, made possible by the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, brought together graduate and undergraduate students in Graphic Design, Creative Writing, and Art. The students worked on four distinct projects, one of which culminated in a gallery exhibition, another of which led to the production of a limited edition atlas of Houston. The atlas, titled *Unfold: Houston Revealed*, was featured in the *Houston Chronicle* and on NPR affiliate KUHF's *Houston Matters*. The publication launch at Brazos Bookstore attracted over 150 people and to date has raised over \$3,000 for Houston Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to the two major projects, students were challenged to map the UH campus immediately, from memory, and to map an abstraction. Rebecca Solnit, writer and editor of *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas* and *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* visited the class to discuss her own interest in re-mapping those cities in essays and images.

The exhibition, *Written Wor(l)ds*, featured three-dimensional installations representing the worlds of books as varied as *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Shining*, *Lord of the Flies*, *House of Leaves*, and Emile Zola's *Nana*. Students proposed novels, settled on the final group, then worked in teams to prepare the installations, each of which combined text with a wide variety of materials to create startling and unique effects. *Written Wor(l)ds* was the premier exhibit

in the University of Houston's Third Space gallery, opening on December 2 and remaining on display into early spring.

*Unfold: Houston Revealed* is an atlas of nine surprising and original maps meant both to reveal parts of Houston and to inspire further exploration. "Triskaidekaphobia" depicts 13 of the buildings in the Medical Center dedicated to science yet succumbing to superstition: none of them have a floor numbered 13. "Signal2Noise" charts the invisible yet highly trafficked wireless networks in four Houston neighborhoods, with names that range from mundane to comic, from vulgar to political. "Hol(e)y City" combines a visual representation of potholes surrounding Lakewood Church with quotations from scripture, sermons, and city documents speaking as if with one voice about flooding, upheaval, and the need for maintenance.

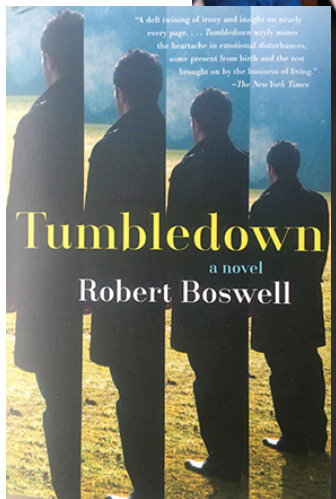


Maggie Galehouse wrote in the *Houston Chronicle* "Unfold: Houston Revealed' offers a comprehensive view of Houston made up of startlingly specific snapshots." On April 8 *Houston Matters* aired a feature by producer Edel Howlin in which she accompanied Turchi, Beckett, and class members Jonathan Lopez and Dana Kroos to the streets outside Lakewood Baptist Church to interview them about the project. All of the proceeds from the project benefited Houston Habitat for Humanity; several board members from the organization, including Executive Director Allison Hay, attended the April 13 book launch at Brazos.

# Faculty News

**Robert Boswell's** play "The Long Shrift," directed by James Franco and starring Ally Sheedy, Scott Haze, and Ahna O'Reilly, was produced off-Broadway by Rattlestick Playwrights' Theater in the summer of 2014. Boz has another play (based on his novel *Tumbledown*) in development with the same theater. The movie based on his story collection *The Heyday of the Insensitive Bastards* opened at the 2015 Atlanta Film Fest, starring Natalie Portman, Matthew Modine, James Franco, Ahna O'Reilly, Kate Mara, Jimmy Kimmel, Abigail Spencer, and Kristin Wiig. Additionally, the short story "Almost Not Beautiful" from the collection has been optioned for a feature-length film.

Boz's stories have recently appeared in *Harpers* ("The House on Bony Lake"), *The Idaho Review* ("Sarah and Alexander: Sophistication"), and *TriQuarterly* ("Sarah and Alexander: The Big Man"), with others forthcoming in the *Ploughshares Solo Series*



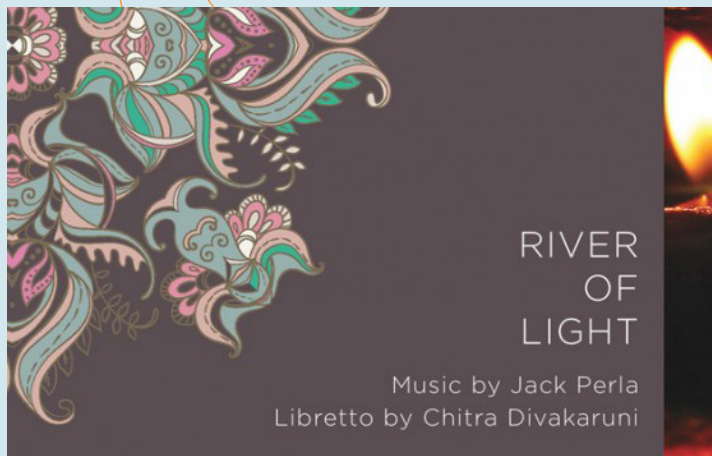
("The Soul in Paraphrase") and in *The Mississippi Review* ("The Atomic City"). He has represented

the University of Houston as faculty at a number of summer conferences and residencies, including the Tin House Writers' Conference and the Napa Valley

Writers' Conference, where he led workshops, gave lectures, and read from his work.

**Audrey Colombe's** article, "Teaching Novel Writing to Undergraduates" is forthcoming in the *AWP Writer's Chronicle* "Online Exclusives." She also presented a panel at AWP on the myriad functions of undergrad literary journals, and helped coordinate and produce a successful *Boldface Writers' Conference* at UH this past spring, while serving as the faculty advisor for *Glass Mountain*, the undergraduate literary journal at UH.

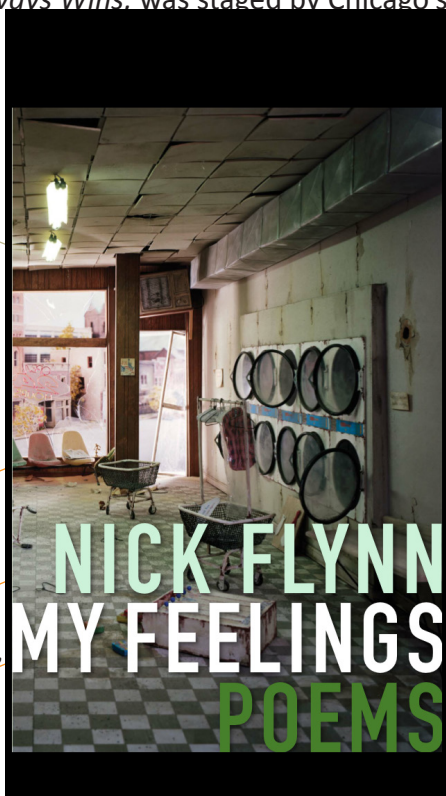
In 2015, **Chitra Divakaruni** was chosen by the *Economic Times* for their list of 20 Most Globally Influential Indian Women. She was also chosen for *Buzzfeed's* 35 Top Asian American Writers, *Polka Cafe's* 15 Top Indian Women Authors, and *India.com's* List of Top Women Activists/Thought



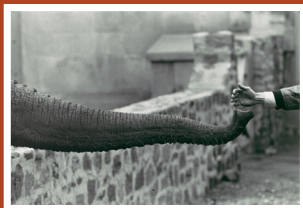
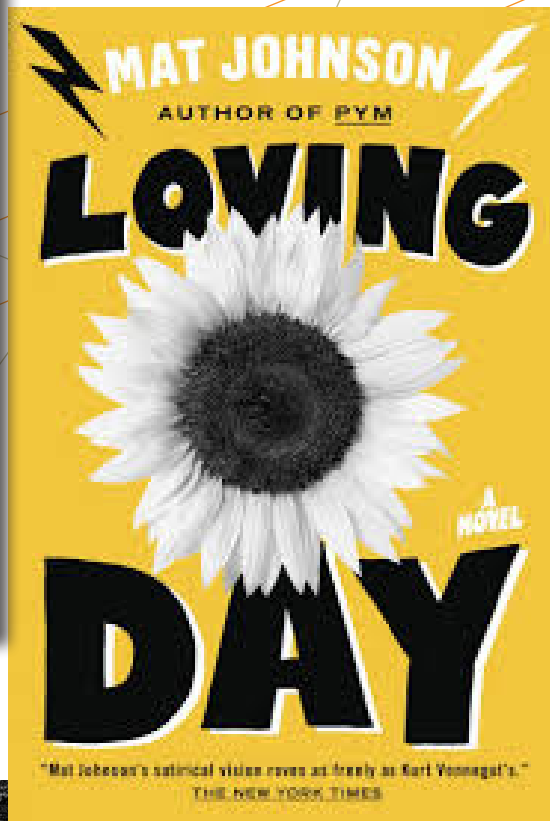
Leaders. *River of Light*, the opera for which Chitra wrote the libretto, and which was performed by Houston Grand Opera will be performed in Northern California in 2015. Chitra's novel-in-stories, *Before We Visit the Goddess*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2016. Her previous novel, *Oleander Girl*, was recently translated into Italian and published by Einaudi.

Last year, in Houston, **Nick Flynn** helped launch *Funk and Wag A—Z* (a book he collaborated on with the artist Mel Chin) in a performance with the artist at the Menil. He also performed new poems in a collaboration with four composers as part of Musica at The Asia Society Houston. Nick's play, *Alice Invents a Little Game and Alice Always Wins*, was staged by Chicago's Forget Me Not Theater, and *Facts About Water*, the CD which chronicles his five-year collaboration with composer Guy Barash, was released. He also participated in a roundtable discussion with three other poets on Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*, published in two parts in the Los Angeles Review of Books.

*Drone Alert Sutras*, a collaborative response to state sanctioned violence, was also launched in 2014, with Sarah Sentilles and the Blue Sky Committee, and is ongoing. Recently, Nick contributed a catalogue essay for the Marilyn Minter retrospective at CAMH, and took part in the Brenda Hillman symposium at Rice. His ninth book, *My Feelings*, a collection of poems, was published by Graywolf Press, and his memoir *The Reenactments* was translated into French (Gallimard).



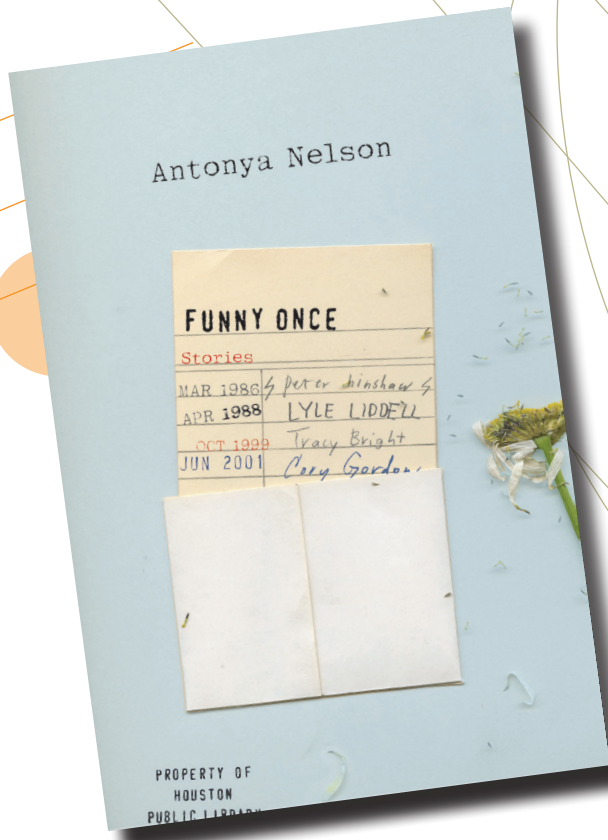
**Mat Johnson's** novel *Loving Day* was published May 26th, 2015 and featured widely, including on NPR's Fresh Air, and on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review*. The novel was optioned by the Showtime Network, with Johnson developing the property as a possible future show.



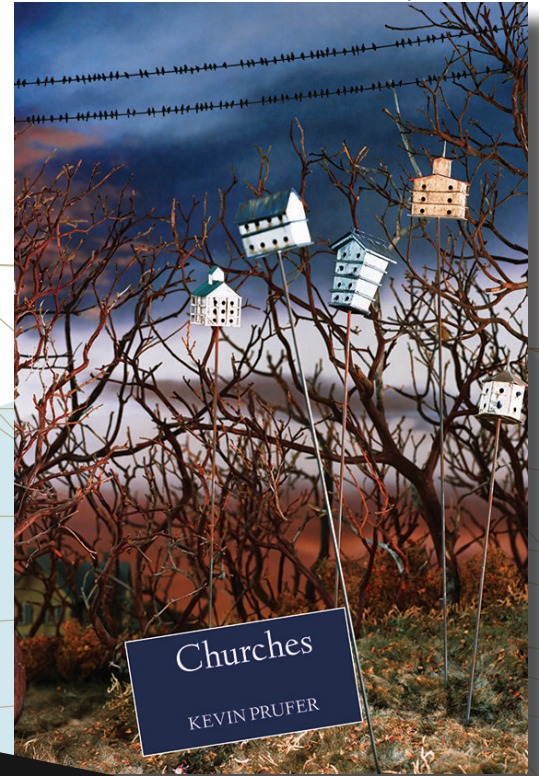
**TWENTY POEMS THAT COULD SAVE AMERICA**  
and other essays  
Tony Hoagland



**Tony Hoagland's** book of essays on poetry, *Twenty Poems That Could Save America*, came out in September 2014 from Graywolf Press. His new book of poems, *Application for Release from the Dream*, will be published by Graywolf in September 2015. A collection of translations from Celtic languages on which Tony collaborated with Martin Shaw, a UK storyteller and folklorist, called *Rough Gods* is scheduled to be published in 2018.

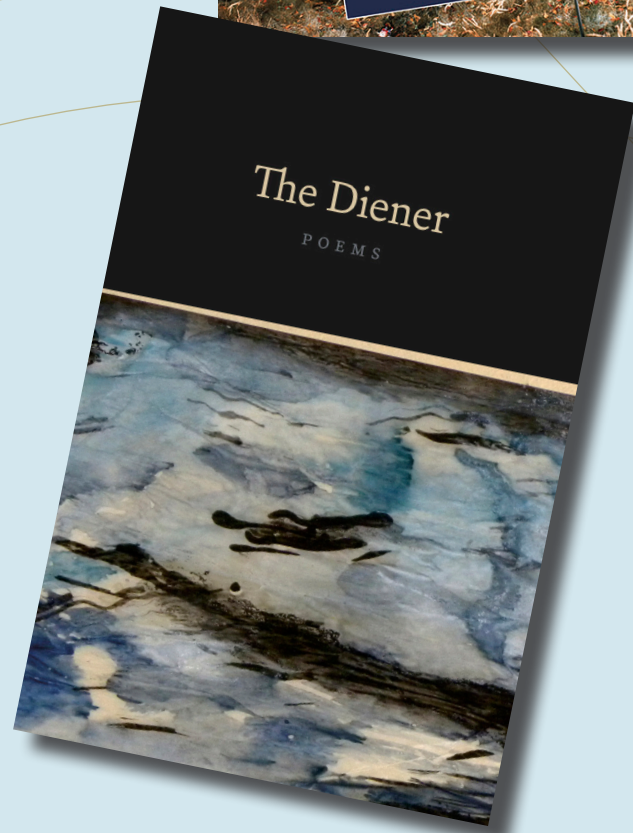


**Kevin Prufer's** new book, *Churches* (Four Way Books) was named by the *New York Times* as one of the "Ten Favorite Poetry Books of 2014." Kevin's poems also recently appeared in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *A Public Space*, the 2016 Pushcart Prize anthology, and others. Finally, an edited volume, *Catherine Breese Davis: On the Life & Work of an American Master* (edited with Martha Collins & UH PhD student Martin Rock) is scheduled to be out by late June through the Unsung Masters Series.

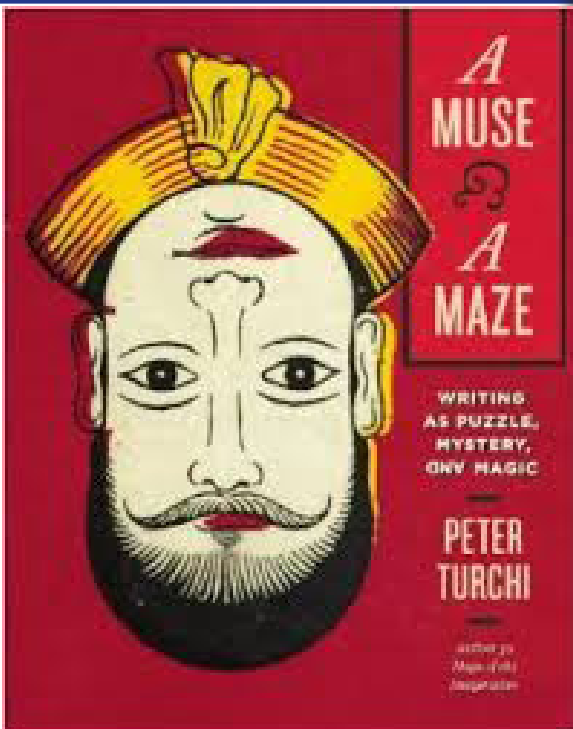
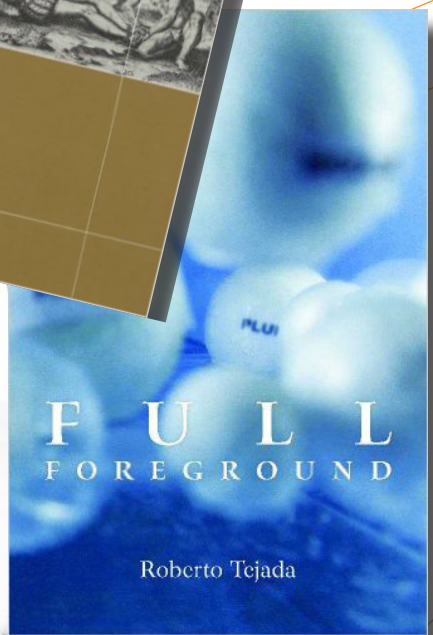
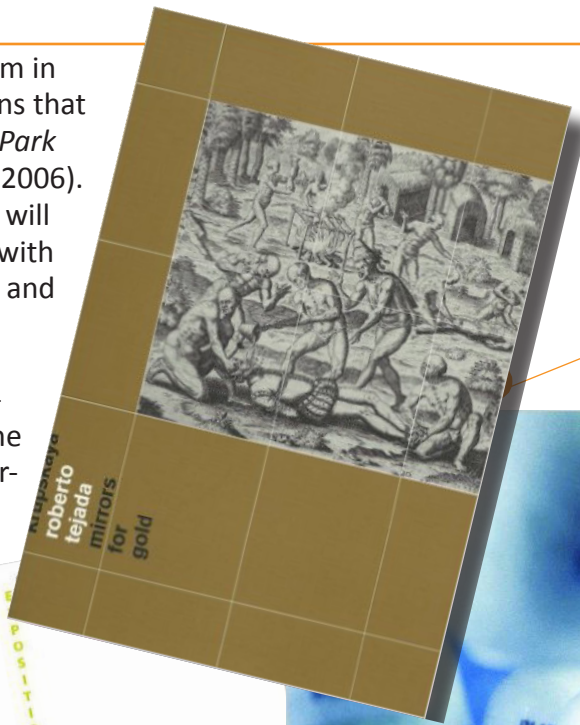


**Antonya Nelson's** stories "First Husband" and "Primum Non Nocere" appeared in *The New Yorker* this past year, and another, "Making Love," appeared in *Oxford American*. She also published a craft essay in *Tin House* and taught at the Light House Writers Workshop, Tin House Writers' Conference, Hugo House, Taos Writers' Conference, Napa Valley Writers' Conference, Bear River Writers' Conference, Tomales Bay Writers' Conference, and the Key West Literary Seminar. The paperback edition of her most recent book, *Funny Once*, came out with Bloomsbury Publishing.

**Martha Serpas's** newest collection of poems, *The Diener*, was published by LSU Press in March 2015. *The Diener* (the title refers to the person who attends the hospital morgue) investigates loss and healing, change and permanence, in a hospital trauma center and in the eroding landscape of southern Louisiana. Included poems were published in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Southwest Review*, *Image*, *The Hopkins Review*, and at least three obscure student journals. She appeared at the Louisiana Book Festival and participated in a panel honoring Cynthia Macdonald at AWP.



**Roberto Tejada** joined the Creative Writing Program in the fall of 2014. He is the author of poetry collections that include *Full Foreground* (Arizona, 2012), *Exposition Park* (Wesleyan, 2010), and *Mirrors for Gold* (Krupskaya, 2006). In Mexico this year, a volume of his selected poems will appear as *Todo en el ahora* (Libros Magenta, 2015) with translations into Spanish by poets Alfonso D'Aquino and Gabriel Bernal Granados (Mexico), and Omar Pérez (Cuba). In October 2014 Tejada presented from a book-in-progress, "Newspaper Assemblage: Los Angeles, 1965-1971," at the Art Institute of Chicago, the keynote address to "All Out in the Streets: The American City and Photographic Media, 1960-1980." Earlier that month, in New York, Tejada joined in the Octavio Paz Centennial Celebration, a program honoring the work of the late Nobel laureate at Poets House. He and his co-editors Gabriel Bernal Granados and Kristin Dykstra, of the literary journal *Mandorla: Nueva Escritura de las Américas / New Writing from the Americas*, co-authored "Poetry in Translation: Hemispheric Perspectives," forthcoming in *Literary Publishing in the 21st Century*, edited by Kevin Prufer, Wayne Miller, and Travis Kurokowsky (Milkweed Editions, 2015). He served as judge to this year's ARTlines2 Poetry Competition at the MFAH and, with Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, he judged the 2015 open reading series at Futurepoem books in New York.



**Peter Turchi's** book on writing, *A Muse and a Maze*, was published by Trinity University Press. It was named the 2014 Foreword Reviews IN-DIEFAB Book of the Year Silver Award Winner for books on writing; it is also one of the winners in the 2014 50 Books | 50 Covers competition, organized by Design Observer in association with AIGA and Designers & Books. The paperback edition of *A Muse and a Maze* will be published in October.



# Student News

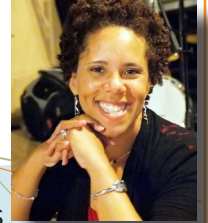
**Conor Bracken's** (MFA, Poetry) work was published or is forthcoming in *Harpur Palate*, *Handsome*, *The Minnesota Review*, and *Puerto del Sol*.



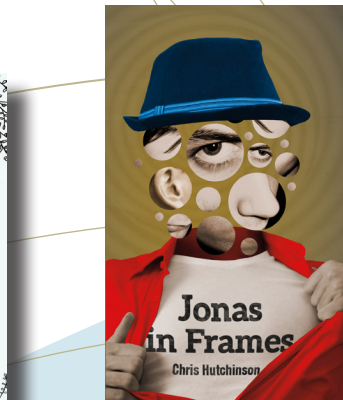
in the *Houston Chronicle* and *OffCite*. This past summer, she attended the New York State Writer's Institute where she studied with Phillip Lopate. She also attended the Santa Fe Science Writing Workshop.

ing (April 2017) with Alice James Press.

**Jeni McFarland** (MFA, Fiction) serves as a fiction editor for *Gulf Coast* magazine. In June, 2015, she travelled to Portland, OR to participate in the Tin House Writer's Workshop.

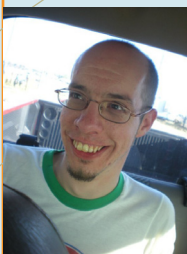


**Erika Jo Brown's** (Ph.D., Poetry) debut poetry collection, *I'm Your Huckleberry*, was published by Brooklyn Arts Press in December 2014. It's been compared to "whipped cream cheese" and "a shi tzu" in book reviews, and is in its second printing.

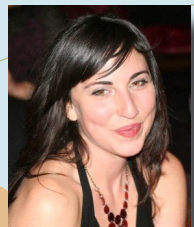


**Chris Hutchinson's** (Ph.D., Poetry) most recent book *Jonas in Frames: An Epic* was published last spring (2014) by Goose Lane/Icehouse.

**Jonathan Meyer** (MFA, Fiction) just finished his first year at UH. In addition to working at the Writing Center, he conducted a workshop with students from Post Oak High School, and his story "Drug-Test Nurse on the C.B. Radio" appeared in *Microchondria II*, a flash fiction anthology published by Harvard Book Store.



**Justin Chrestman's** short story "Astronaut House" won the National Alligator Juniper fiction prize and appears in the current issue of *Alligator Juniper*.



**Kristin Kostick's** (MFA, Nonfiction) essay "Hostage Situation" won the 2015 Arts & Letters Prize, with an award of \$1000 and publication in an upcoming issue of *Arts & Letters*.

**Christopher Brean Murray** (Ph.D., Poetry) had poems accepted at



*Third Coast*, *Salamander*, *Handsome*, and *Forklift, Ohio*. His poem "Blue Jay Variations"



This year, **Rachel Fairbank** (MFA, Nonfiction) had work published

**Elizabeth Lyons'** (Ph.D., Poetry) debut poetry collection, *The Blessing of Dark Water*, won the 2015 Alice James Book Prize. Her book is forthcom-

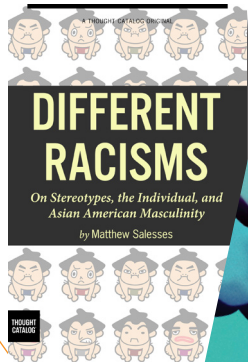


won a contest sponsored by Brazos' Books and AFA (American Festival for the Arts). His manuscript *The Specific Ocean* was runner-up for Sarabande Books' Kathryn A. Morton Prize.

# New Students

2015-16

**Nancy Pearson's** (MFA, Nonfiction) newest collection of poems *The Whole By Contemplation of a Single Bone* was accepted for publication. It will be published by Fordham Press in early spring 2016.



**Matthew Salesses's** (Ph.D., Fiction) nonfiction book, *Different Racisms* was published by Thought Catalog Books (2014), and his first novel, *The Hundred-Year Flood*, was recently published by Little A/Amazon Publishing (2015).



**Martha Stallman's** (Ph.D., Fiction) work appeared in *The Joyce Studies Annual*, *Houston Nomadic and Literary Voices* and *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature*. Her essay "Exacerbation 17" won the Inprint Donald Barthelme

Prize in Nonfiction, and her story "A Brief Catalogue of Minor Sex Scandals" is forthcoming in *The Offing*.

**Will Wilkinson** (MFA, Fiction) was hired as the U.S. Politics Correspondent for *The Economist*. In the fall, he'll also be an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Iowa.



## Fiction

**Corey Campbell, Ph.D.**  
BFA, New York University  
MFA, Warren Wilson College

**Thomas Cardomone, MFA**  
BA, Colgate University

**Amanda Casolo, Ph.D.**  
BA, University of Connecticut  
MFA, Colorado State University

**Joshua Foster, Ph.D.**  
BA, Brigham Young University  
MFA, University of Arizona

**Josephine Mitchell, MFA**  
BFA, University of British Columbia

**Wanjiku Ngugi, MFA**  
BA, New York University

**Alexandra Naumann, MFA**  
BA, University of Houston

## Nonfiction

**Christopher Liek, MFA**  
BA, Susquehanna University

## Poetry

**Daniel Chu, MFA**  
BA, Williams College  
MS, St. John's University

**Catherine Cleary, MFA**  
BA, University of Texas

**Lauren Espinoza, Ph.D.**  
BA, University of Texas-Pan American  
MA, Mexican American Studies, University of Texas-Pan American  
MFA, Arizona State University

**Carol Ann Madden, Ph.D.**  
BA, University of California-Santa Cruz  
MA, Boston College  
MFA, San Diego State University

**Aza Pace, MFA**  
BA, University of Texas

**Samantha Thilen, MFA**  
BA, University of Florida

**Stalina Villareal, Ph.D.**  
BA, University of Texas  
MFA, California College of the Arts

**Lani Yu, MFA**  
BA, Vanderbilt University

# Graduates

2015-16

# Writing Prizes

2014-15

## Fall 2014

Bradley Parrigan, MFA, Fiction

## Spring 2015

Conor Bracken, MFA, Poetry  
 Julia Brown, MFA, Fiction  
 Justin Chrestman, Ph.D., Fiction  
 Katherine Condon, MFA, Poetry  
 Aja Gabel, Ph.D., Fiction  
 Laura Jok, MFA, Fiction  
 Kristin Kostick, MFA, Poetry  
 Jameelah Lang, Ph.D., Nonfiction  
 Elizabeth (Tapia) Lyons, Ph.D., Poetry  
 Talia Mailman, MFA, Fiction  
 Samuel Mansfield, MFA, Poetry  
 Karyna McGlynn, Ph.D., Poetry  
 Bryan Owens, MFA, Poetry  
 Nancy Pearson, MFA, Nonfiction  
 Justine Post, Ph.D., Poetry  
 Austin Tremblay, Ph.D., Fiction  
 William Wilkinson, MFA, Fiction

## Summer 2015

Allyn West, Ph.D., Nonfiction

*Inprint and the University of Houston's  
 Creative Writing Program  
 are pleased to announce the writing prize winners  
 for 2014 - 2015*

### INPRINT ALEXANDER PRIZE IN FICTION

Ashley Wurzbacher

### INPRINT VERLAINE PRIZE IN POETRY

David Tomas Martinez

### INPRINT MARION BARTHELME PRIZE IN CREATIVE WRITING

Allie Rowbottom

### INPRINT DONALD BARTHELME PRIZE IN NONFICTION

Martha Stallman

### INPRINT ROBERT J. SUSSMAN PRIZE IN FICTION

Julia Brown

### INPRINT DONALD BARTHELME PRIZE IN FICTION

Matthew Salesses

### INPRINT DONALD BARTHELME PRIZE IN POETRY

Kay Cosgrove and Nancy Pearson

### BRAZOS BOOKSTORE / ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS PRIZE

Dana Kroos

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

### JUDGES

**MARION BARTHELME PRIZE**

Sasha West (*UH Alum*)

**FICTION**

Nina McConigley (*UH Alum*)

**POETRY**

Brian Barker (*UH Alum*)

**NONFICTION**

Matthew Frank

# Inprint News

Inprint, Houston's premier literary arts nonprofit organization, whose mission is to inspire readers and writers, prizes its relationship with the UH Creative Writing Program students and faculty, and looks forward to another great season during 2015–2016.

Inprint proudly continues to award fellowships, prizes, and provides other support to graduate students at the UH Creative Writing Program. Since its inception in 1983, Inprint's support has surpassed \$3 million to more than 500 graduate students. Inprint also connects these talented emerging writers to the local community by hiring them as instructors for Inprint's Writers Workshops, Teachers-As-Writers Workshops, Senior Memoir Workshops, Third Ward Youth Residency Workshops; Inprint Poetry Buskers who write poems on demand at festivals and special events; writers for Inprint's blog "An Open Book"; and more.

## The Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series

presented in association with the UH Creative Writing Program and Brazos Bookstore, and now entering its 35<sup>th</sup> season, will present internationally celebrated authors, including two faculty members from the Creative Writing Program. Readings take place at 7:30 pm in various performing halls around Houston. The 2015-2016 Series features:

**September 21, 2015—Jonathan Franzen**, National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award finalist, whose novel *The Corrections* sold more than 3 million copies, reading from his highly-anticipated new novel *Purity*.

**October 12, 2015—Sandra Cisneros**, MacArthur Foundation Fellow and Texas Medal of the Arts winner, reading from her new memoir *A House of My Own*.

**November 9, 2015—Salman Rushdie**, winner of the Booker Prize and the "Best of the Booker" for his novel *Midnight's Children*, and author of ten other acclaimed novels, reading from *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights*, inspired by 1001 Arabian Nights.

**January 25, 2016—Anthony Doerr**, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his acclaimed New York Times #1 bestseller *All the Light We Cannot See*.

**February 29, 2016—Tracy K. Smith**, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Princeton University faculty member, also reading from her new memoir *Ordinary Light*.

**March 28, 2016—Helen Oyeyemi**, one of Granta's Best Young British Novelists, reading from her new collection of linked stories *What Is Yours Is Not Yours*, and **Mat Johnson**, winner of the Dos Passos Prize for Literature and author of three novels and four graphic novels, reading from his new novel *Loving Day*.

**April 18, 2016—Tony Hoagland**, Jackson Poetry Prize winner, reading from his new collection *Application for Release from the Dream*, and Sharon Olds, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award-winning poet reading from *Stag's Leap*.

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

For more information on Inprint visit [www.inprintheouston.org](http://www.inprintheouston.org) or 713.521.2026.

# Gulf Coast

## a Journal of Literature and Fine Arts

The past year has brought *Gulf Coast* a veritable flood of developments in the print journal, online, in our Houston-based programming, and beyond. In our editorial and curatorial quest for excellence we've reached simultaneously backward into the era of hand-printed folios and forward into the digital world where literature is transmitted through space as ones and zeros and then back again into pixelated language, in order to appear on your screen at home, in flight, or at the park.

Carlos Hernandez, our inaugural Digital Editor, and his team of Online Editors have done phenomenal work to present a rotating selection of online exclusives on our new website, and the team has worked tirelessly to keep *GC Online* running smoothly and beautifully. Notable *GC Online* contributors have included Michael Earl Craig, Geoffrey Nutter, Wang Ping, Jim Shepard, and Joni Wallace. We are also proud of the work of our guest bloggers, Robin Black and David Mura, and look forward to seeing what *GC Online* has in store for the coming year.

The cover of our most recent issue turns to the old-world printing technology of the letterpress in order to highlight the art of bookmaking, and to celebrate the work of local Houston designers and printmakers at Workhorse Press. The Art Lies section of the journal, put together by Assistant Art Lies Editor Lauren Greve and Guest Art Lies Editor Raphael Rubinstein, includes the brilliant and colorful artwork of Chitra Ganesh, whose work reimagines mythology, narrative, desire, and paradigms of power. The

issue also features local artists Susanne Bloom & Ed Hill of *MANUAL* (whose work can be seen on the second floor of the Cullen Building) as well as a selection of photographs with an essay titled "The Library as Installation" by Raphael Rubinstein.

Our team of genre editors in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction has also brought to our recent and forthcoming issues the work of authors such as Aimee Bender, Caitlin Horrocks, Dorothea Lasky, F.T. Marinetti translated by Jennifer Scappetone, Phillip Metres, Sharon Olds, Sergio Pitol translated by Cynthia Steele, Debra Spark, Juan Villoro translated by Sarah Pollock, and G.C. Waldrep. We've

also included some excellent roundtables including one between Natalie Diaz, Tarfia Faizullah, David Tomas Martinez, Roger Reeves, and Alan Shapiro. It is for this reason, and because of the hard work of all our editors, that *Gulf Coast* is consistently recognized as one of the very best stu-

dent-run literary journals in the country.

But wait! There's more! *Gulf Coast* has also begun a new Prize in Translation, which will continue to show our commitment to publishing the best contemporary writing, not only in English, but in other languages as well. We also threw a hugely successful party at AWP with over 300 people in attendance, were instrumental in the organization and execution of MenilFest, and have continued to bring in featured readers to the Gulf Coast Reading Series, including writers such as Noah Eli Gordon, Caitlin Horrocks, Michael Morse, and others. We wish we could say we've had a nice long break over summer, but the truth is we've been in the Gulf Coast office, scheming and making plans for the coming year.



POETRY BY NINA CHEUKO, JULIA KOLCHINSKY DASSACH, HAYDAR ERGÜLEN, ROBERT A. FINK, MAKOSA DI GIORGIO, ANA SCHIRA, PAUL ZIMMUS, KIM KYUNG-JI, U.S. KATI, XIN LAM, REBECCA DAL FILIPPO, TOMAS BARRETTI, TED MADON, SHARITA MUFFELLO, PETER MISHLETT, MARCELO NORRLES, MATT MORFEN, ELIZABETH MURRAY, VAN NUYEN, DAVID NIELSEN, ALAN SHAPIRO, GUY PETER, RICHARD PRING, ANDREW MICHAEL ROBERTS, CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON, JOSE EDUARDO SANCHEZ, METABE SHAPIRO, LAURA SIMS, SARA MOSE THOMPSON, G.C. WILDER, & PAUL ZIMMUS.

ART AND ART WRITING BY SUZETTE BIANCO, SHARON BUTLER, LEBRONA DOMELES, CHITRA GANESH, PABLO HELGERS, MAMUN, TED HILL & SUSANNE BLOOM, & RAFAEL RUBINSTEIN.

TAJA MALMAN REVIEWS KULA BISS, ADRIENNE PERRY, EDWARD TOM MCCLELLY, & MARTIN ROCK REVIEWS STEPHANE MAILLAME.

FICTION BY JAMES BENDER, MARK LADOWSKI, NEEZ COFFIN, & DANA SIN.

NONFICTION BY MAYLEE CHAL, RACHEL HOWARD, LAWRENCE LEMMAS, TYLER BRANDEN, GARY L. MCDONELL, & JASON WATSON.

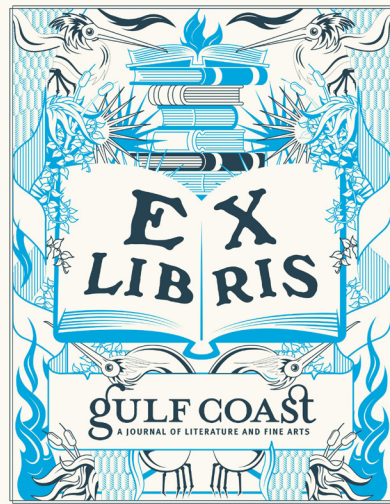
TRANSLATIONS BY DANIEL BOROZOVIC, ADRIANA S. JACOBI, JOEL LEVINE, JEANNE MARIE PITHA, ANNA ROSALINDO, & JENNIFER SCAPPETONE.

LETTERPRESS COVER DESIGNED BY SPINULETOP DESIGN & PRINTED BY WORKHORSE PRESS/TRADES IN HOUSTON, TX.

ALSO AMY HEWELL INTRODUCES THE 2014 BARTHELME PRIZE-WINNER ENYA EGGER & HONORABLE MENTIONISTS PATTY YOUNG COSTELLO & SUSAN JULLEY. 2014 GULF COAST PRIZE IN TRANSLATION WINNER GUYTON GORDON & HONORABLE MENTIONISTS JENNY MATTEN & VYETTE SEGER.

POEM NOTICE SHE, TARIYA FADILLAH, DAVID TOMAS MARTINEZ, ROGER REEVES, & ALAN SHAPIRO TALK ABOUT POETRY AND IDENTITY IN AMERICA.

S10 SUMMER/FALL 2015 VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2



# Glass Mountain

The Undergraduate Literary Journal at the University of Houston

Glass Mountain started the year with a dedicated group of upper editors (Rebecca Canak, Editor; Shaina Fraser and Joe Roberts, Managing Editors; Art/Digital Editor Adrienne Meyers; Fiction Editor Patrick LaRose; and Poetry Editor Braden Root) who brought energy, updates, and ideas to the magazine and events. The *Glass Mountain* and Boldface Conference websites were not only updated but redesigned with a photo essay feature created by Adrienne Meyers—who also did a remarkable job of soliciting artwork from undergraduate art students across the country. The beautiful Fall (#13) and Spring (#14) print editions were designed by Rebecca Canak and Adrienne Meyers. Zach Weber, an assistant poetry editor, brought a new section to the print magazine: Reviews and Interviews. Issue #14 included the first set (reviews of books, albums, and films; an interview with Kimberly Meyer, author of *The Book of Wanderings*)—and sold out within six weeks!

The magazine also presented a record number of readings and events spring and fall semesters. Readings at Café Brasil, The Nook, and Calhoun's Rooftop Bar & Grill, featured current and past UH undergrads in creative writing, and an open mic section—very popular with our audiences. Our graduate advisor and logistical guru, Kay Cosgrove,

also introduced UH undergrads to a new kind of event: information sessions. In April, all English Department undergrads were invited to a presentation on writing personal statements for job and graduate school applications. Kay also worked on putting together the Boldface Conference—with new accommodations and ultra-smooth organizational structure. We will miss her this coming year, though are thrilled to be working in 2015-2016 with Matthew Salesses, the new Graduate Advisor, and Aries Jones, the new undergraduate Editor.

At Write-a-thon, our annual fundraiser in November, we were joined by scores of undergrads, graduate students, faculty and Glass Mountain Advisory Board members who helped us raise a record 12K. (Thank you, all donors, especially the Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation, the English Department, and our anonymous angel.) We will fire it up again this November—please stay posted for details.

Four of the upper editors, along with Kay Cosgrove, took *Glass Mountain* to the AWP Conference and Bookfair in April—with new promotional t-shirts, fortune cookies, and issue #14 hot off the press. Everyone came back with new ideas, connections, nifty Joan Didion canvas bags, and books galore. If funding allows, the new band of upper editors will be tak-

ing the magazine to Los Angeles in March 2016 for another round of literary barter and information gathering.

Another first this year: *Glass Mountain* editors nominated the very first Alice Alsop Fellow, Bryan Washington, who was awarded a paid internship at *Houstonia* magazine. (Bryan has since graduated and is beginning his MFA work at University of New Orleans in the fall.) The *Glass Mountain* Advisory Board, headed by Randi Faust (MFA '04) welcomed three new members: Lacy Johnson, Paul Otremba, and Miah Arnold—all UH CWP Ph.Ds. with lots of experience in the literary arts to share with undergraduates.

All six upper editors ended the year with a smart turn at work in May, welcoming the participants at Boldface, feeding the entire crew every day, driving guests back and forth to events and airports, and generally exhausting themselves in a grand display of hospitality that earned them a box of fancy chocolates from Pacific University students and their faculty leader, Keya Mitra (Ph.D '09). Most of these hard-working editors have now graduated, found jobs locally and internationally, or will begin graduate school in the fall.

BTW, any alums interested in bringing or sending their students to the Boldface Conference in May 2016 please contact me

at [aacolombe@uh.edu](mailto:aacolombe@uh.edu) for information on how to put together funding and make travel arrangements. Anyone interested

in having their undergraduate or community writers submit to *Glass Mountain*, check out the submission page. All our events

are posted on the *Glass Mountain Magazine* Facebook page.

Audrey Colombe, Faculty Advisor

# Boldface

## A Conference for Emerging Writers

The undergraduate literary magazine, *Glass Mountain*, hosted their 7<sup>th</sup> annual Boldface Conference for Emerging Writer's this past May. The conference proved to be an amazing success as participants came from all across the United States to mingle with writers and artists from the University of Houston, Houston Community College, and community arts organizations such as Project Row Houses. The conference provided attendees an intensive opportunity to engage in community, learn of graduate and professional opportunities, and develop their writing through daily workshops, craft talks, masterclasses taught by students from the University of Houston Creative Writing Graduate Program, readings, and panel discussions.



This year, we were happy to welcome an amazing and diverse group of visiting writers, all of whom are alumni from the University of Houston's Creative writing Program. The writers included fiction writer Coert Vorhees, author of several young adult novels, poet Blas Falconer, who is currently teaching at the University of Southern California, and non-fiction writer Gail Storey, an author of several books and a member of the first graduating class from the University's Creative Writing Program. The writers shared their work, writing,

and experiences with all of our attendees, offering valuable knowledge and insight into life after graduate school and what it takes to become a published writer.



Throughout the week, the conference also hosted an array of offsite activities to keep the fun going. Attendees visited local arts havens such as Project Row Houses, the Menil Collection, and the Museum District. We also held two evening readings, one at Kaboom Books in the Heights area, and the other at Café Brasil in Montrose. Both readings were a huge hit with an incredible showing and an even

more impressive display of our Boldface attendees' talents. Lastly, our week came to a close with our farewell/after-party at Calhoun's Rooftop Bar & Grill. We shared laughs, drinks, stories, favorite moments, and goodbyes as we wished another successful Boldface farewell until next year.

Check out our website at [www.boldfaceconference.com](http://www.boldfaceconference.com) for more highlights and photos from this year's conference. And please visit the site throughout the year for information and updates about upcoming events like our Write-A-Thon, which raises funds to help us put on a successful Boldface each year. We look forward to another great conference in 2016!



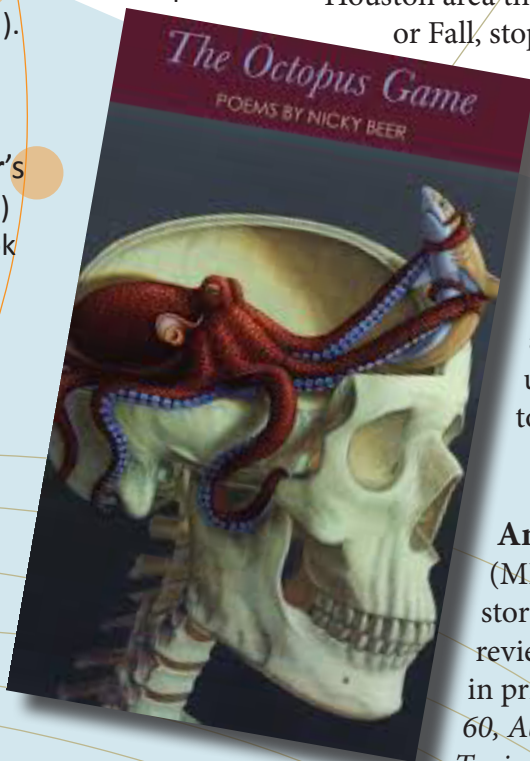
Shaina Frazier, Outgoing Co-Managing Editor

# Alumni News

In October 2014, **Aaron Ashby** (Ph.D., 2000) joined the full-time faculty of the International University of Rabat, in Morocco, as Assistant Professor of English and Cultural Studies.

**Christopher Bakken's** (Ph.D., 1999) third book of poems, *Eternity & Oranges*, will be published by the Pitt Poetry Series in February 2016. Bakken was recently named the Frederick F. Seeley Chair in the English at Allegheny College. He is also the director of Writing Workshops in Greece: Thessaloniki and Thasos ([www.writingworkshopsingreece.com](http://www.writingworkshopsingreece.com)).

**Nicky Beer's** (MFA, 2003) second book of poems, *The Octopus Game*, came out in February 2015, and received favorable reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*. Nicky was also awarded the 2016 Marry Wood Fellowship from Washington College.



**Glenna Bell** (Ph.D., 1998) is working on finishing her new album. The rough mixes are sounding GREAT with an all-star lineup of some of Austin's top tier musicians playing rhythm, bass, guitar, and steel guitar parts behind Glenna's little Songbird, Odetta. The songs range in theme and mood from a moving cover of the famous ballad, "Everybody's Changing" (Keane) to a brand new, all-original, eight-bar Blues, featuring Johnny Nicholas on a boogie piano part that sounds as if it comes straight from the woods of deep East Texas. She is beginning to set up live shows for the release, and if you're in the Houston area this Summer and/or Fall, stop by historic La

Carafe, Downtown on Market Square, on a third Tuesday, and catch some of the new songs, and enjoy a nice cold one under the downtown lights.

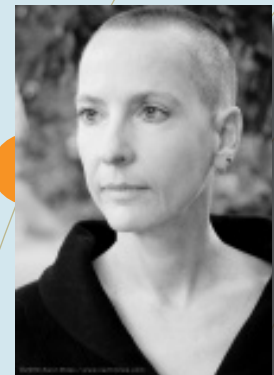
**Ann Bogle's** (MFA, 1994) short stories, poetry, and reviews have appeared in print in *Gargoyle 60*, *Abstract/Ext.*, *Rain Taxi*, and *American Book Review*. Her work, including essays, have appeared in online journals including *Camroc Press Review*, *Wordgathering*

(*Reading Loop*), *MadHat 15*, *Thrice Fiction*, *Blue Fifth Review: Blue Five Notebook Series*, *Mad Hatters' Review*, *Altered Scale*, *THIS Literary Magazine*, *New Flash Fiction Review*, *Asymptote*, *Intellectual Refuge*, *Ragazine*, *matchbook*, *Big Bridge*, *Editor's Eye in the Blog of the Fictionaut*, *Books at Fictionaut*, *Monday Chat on Fictionaut* (with Bill Yarrow), and on Asheville FM's *WordPlay* with Jeff Davis. Wigleaf honored her story "Meryl Streep Laughed at That" in their Top 50 in 2013. Her beloved friends and lovers Carol Novack, Ned Krahl, and Tony Sanders died in 2011, 2013, and 2015, and grief in their absence has been nearly unsustainable. She is grateful for other friends, writers, and poets around the country and her family who live near Minneapolis and in California.

Ten poems from **Katharine Coles's** (MA, 1983) most recent collection (*The Earth Is Not Flat*, written under the auspices of the National Science Foundation's

Antarctic Artists and Writers Program) were translated into German by the poet Klaus Martens

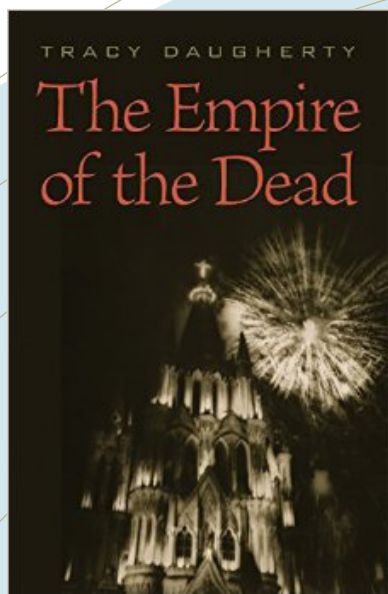
and published last June in the German journal, *Matrix*. Twenty





poems were translated into Spanish by Isabel del Rio for the International Poetry Festival of Medellin 2015, at which Coles appeared in July. Her newest collection *Flight*, will be published by Red Hen Press in spring 2016.

**Audrey Colombe** (Ph.D., 1999) came back to UH as a visiting professor this past year, serving as faculty advisor for *Glass Mountain* (UH's undergraduate literary journal) and the Boldface Writers' Conference. Her article "Teaching Novel Writing to Undergraduates" will be published in the *AWP Writer's Chronicle's* "Online Exclusives" this fall.

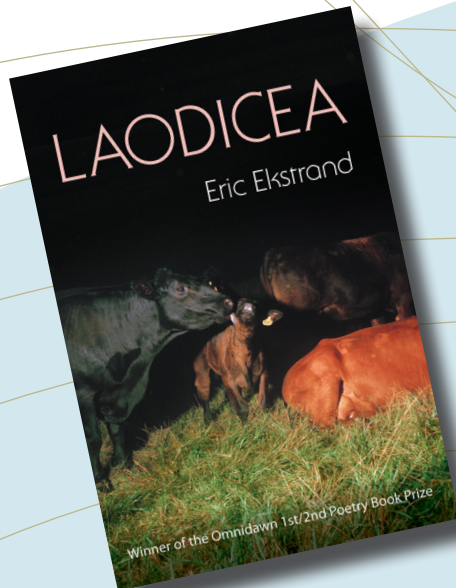


This past November, Johns Hopkins University Press published **Tracy Daugherty's** (Ph.D., 1985) new short story collection, *The Empire of the Dead*. In August, St. Martin's Press published Tracy's biography of Joan Didion, *The*



*Brief Encounters* edited by Judith Kitchen and Dinah Lenney, and published by W. W. Norton.

*Last Love Song*. The biography has received starred pre-pub reviews from Kirkus and Library Journal. Tracy also has a short essay in the forthcoming anthology,



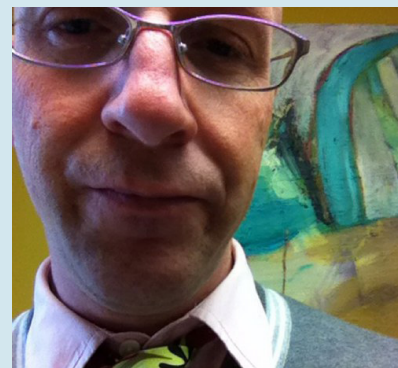
**Eric Ekstrand** (MFA, 2010) was married last May to Danny Moore. His first book of poems, *Laodicea*, was selected by Donald Revell for the Omnidawn 1st/2nd Book Prize and was published this past April.

**Laura Eve Engel's** (MFA, 2011) recent work has appeared in *The Awl*, *Boston Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Tin House* and elsewhere. A recipient of the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellowship in 2011-

2012, she was a Writing Fellow at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center in 2014-2015, and is the Residential Program Director of the UVa Young Writers Workshop.

**Renata Golden** (MFA, 2000) attended the Bread Loaf Orion Writers Conference this past June. Additionally, she was on a panel with Joni Tevis, another CWP alum, at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) conference. The theme of the conference was Notes from the Underground and the name of the panel was "The Other Down Under/Others Down Under". Renata presented an essay on the language of prairie dogs. Renata also recently published two technical manuals for HP Press: *HP ASE Server Solutions Architect V2* (February 2015) and *HP ATP Server Solutions V2* (December 2014).

**Gary Hawkins's** (Ph.D., 2004) first poetry collection, *Worker*, will be published by Main Street Rag in winter 2016. He also recently received fellowships to: Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Vermont Studio Center, and the Jentel Foundation.



**J. Bradford Hipps'** (MFA, 2007) first novel, *The Adventurist*, will be published by St. Martin's Press in April 2016.



**Cliff Hudder** (MFA, 1995) continues as co-program director of the Writers in Performance Reading Series in Conroe, TX with fellow CWP alum Dave Parsons. His novel, *Pretty Enough for You*, was published by Texas Review Press in July 2015.

**Peter Hyland** (MFA, 2007) recently published reviews of David Lehman's *New and Selected Poems* and Mark Halliday's *Thresherphobe* in *Green Mountains Review*. This past November, he also started as an Associate Editor at *upstreet*.

**Andrew Kozma's** (Ph.D., 2007) poem "Ode to a Common Housefly" was chosen by Sherman Alexie to appear in *Best American Poetry 2015*.

**Laura Lark's** (MA, 1989) art was recently featured in solo exhibitions at Devin Borden Gallery and the UH Blaffer Gallery Windows. She also received honorable mention in the Texas Observer Short Fiction Competition.

Earlier this year **Lance Larsen** (Ph.D., 1993) published an essay in *Southwest Review*, and has other nonfiction pieces forthcoming in *Southern Review*, *River Styx*, *Portland* and *Brief Encounters*, a Norton anthology edited by Judith Kitchen and Dinah Lenney. One of his essays made the notable list in *Best American Essays 2014*. He spent this past June leading a mixed-genre workshop at Writers at Work and hiking around Banff in Alberta with his daughter and Canadian son-in-law.

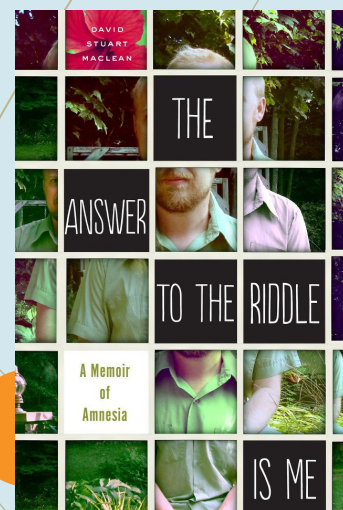
**Leah Lax's** (MFA, 2004) memoir, *Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home*, was published by She Writes Press in August of this year, with glowing approbations by Mark Doty, Rosellen Brown, Lev Raphael, and Gloria Steinem.

**Lisa Lee** (MFA, 2009) completed her third year at the University of Southern California's PhD in Creative Writing and Literature program. She was awarded a Pushcart Prize for her novel excerpt "Paradise Cove," which originally appeared in *Ploughshares* and will be published in *The Pushcart Prize anthology 2016*. Lisa has also been awarded

fellowships by The Korea Foundation and USC's Korean Studies Institute to conduct research on her dissertation in Seoul. Last summer, she received a fellowship from the EASC Association for Japan-U.S. Community Exchange (ACE) Nikaido program to begin fieldwork on her dissertation in Tokyo.

**Laura Long's** (Ph.D., 2000) first novel *Out of Peel Tree* (West Virginia U. P., 2014) was selected as a Finalist for three book awards in spring 2015: The Balcones Fiction Prize, the IndieFab Award in Literary Fiction, and the Weatherford Award in Fiction.

The paperback version of **David MacLean's** (Ph.D., 2009) *The Answer to the Riddle is Me* came out in March with Mariner (HMH's paperback imprint) and it was recently named one of the best books of the year by Kirkus Reviews and Best Memoir by the Society of Midland Authors. David and his wife also recently welcomed their second child. His name is Stone.





**Cate Marvin's** (MFA, 1997) third book, *Oracle*, was published by Norton this year. She also received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Open Book Award and a 2014 High Plains Book Award. She was a 2014 fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and she was named by *Glamour Magazine* as one of '50 Phenomenal Women Making a Difference' in 2014, and her book was named one of 2014's Best Prize Winning books by *O, Oprah Magazine*. She recently accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Wyoming, and joined the faculty in the MFA Program at Warren Wilson. She will also be the visiting writer at the University of Texas, Austin in spring 2016.

made her way back to the Negev and Sinai deserts this past summer to follow up on some stories that have intrigued her since she traveled there for the journey recounted in the book.

After 12 years at the University of Central Missouri, **Wayne Miller** (MFA, 2002) moved to Denver, Colorado,

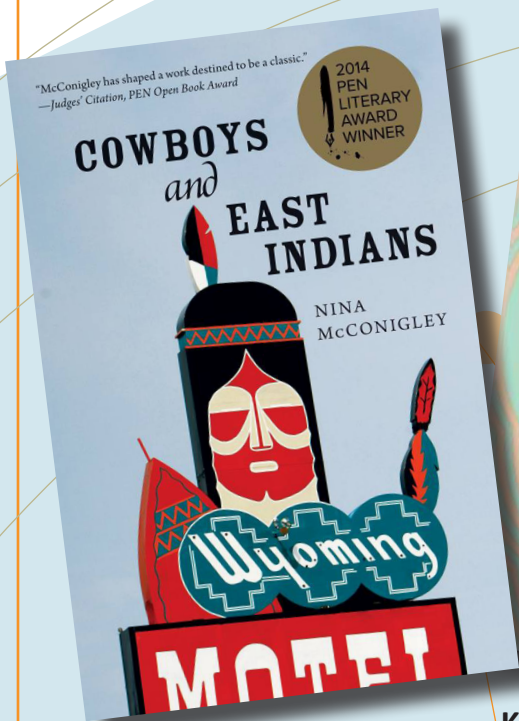


where he is an Associate Professor at CU Denver alongside UH alumni Brian Barker and Nicky Beer, with whom he edits the literary journal *Copper Nickel*. Wayne, his wife Jeanne, and their daughter Harper, welcomed Sean Declan to their family in January, 2015. Three of Wayne's books will be published in the coming months: a co-translation of *Zodiac* (Zephyr, 2015), by the Albanian poet Moikom Zeqo; a book of essays titled *Literary Publishing in the 21st Century* (Milkweed, 2016), coedited with Travis Kurowski and Kevin Prufer; and his fourth poetry collection, *Post-* (Milkweed, 2016).

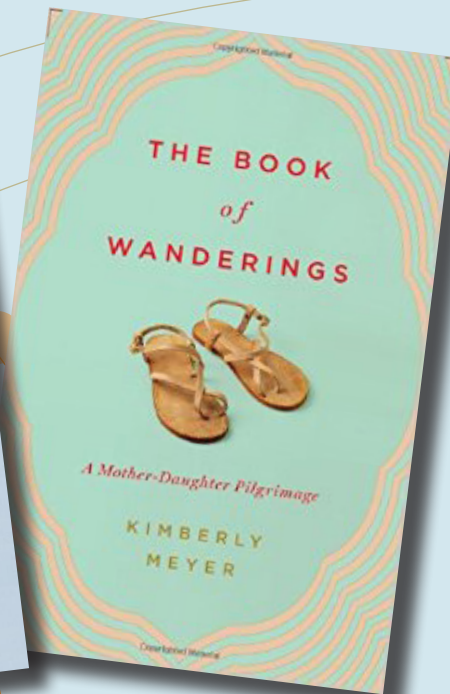
**James Davis May** (MFA, 2007) is now an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Young Harris College in Georgia. His first poetry collection, *Unquiet Things*, will be published by Louisiana State University Press in 2016.

**Ann McCutchan** (Fall, 1998) is an Associate Professor at the University of North Texas, where she teaches Creative Nonfiction. She is currently on a two-year foundation grant to write a biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

**Edward Mullany's** (MFA, 2007) new book of fiction, *The Three Sunrises*, was published by Publishing Genius this past June.



**Nina McConigley's** (MFA, 2006) story collection, *Cowboys and East Indians*, won the 2014 PEN

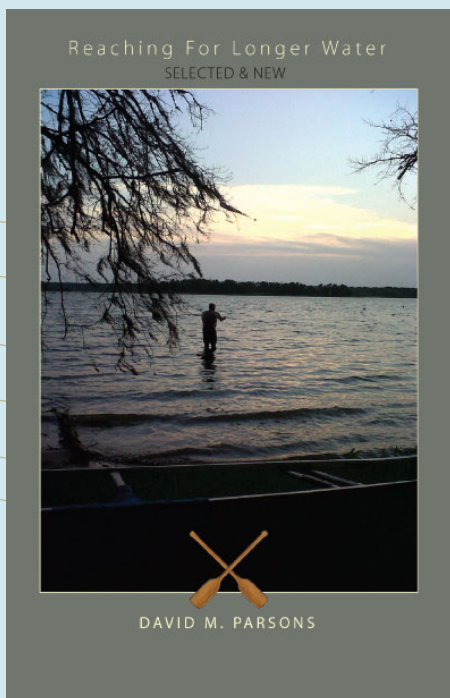


**Kimberly Meyer's** (Ph.D., 2008) first book, *The Book of Wanderings* (Little, Brown), came out this past March. She also

**Christian Nagle** (Ph.D., 2000) spent eleven years in Japan, playing music, writing, teaching and translating the early modern-

ist poet Chūya Nakahara. In 2011 he returned to the US and began working as a writer, director and sound designer for TV/Web commercials. In 2014 he formed a partnership with a friend from high school and they incorporated as Doppelgänger Pictures ([www.doppelganger.pictures](http://www.doppelganger.pictures)), moving to Christian's old stomping ground of Nashville, TN. Their Great American Music Project is being developed as a made-for-TV series and their first feature film, *Snake In The Kitchen*, about genre-smashing music phenomenon Cody Brooks, is in production. He thanks James Kastely for his endless rec letters and Steve Liparulo for standing him to a fine pub lunch when he came through town last winter. He misses David Mazella's seminars (but not Clarissa). You are cordially invited to send him love, abuse, guns, money and lawyers at [x@doppelganger.pictures](mailto:x@doppelganger.pictures)

**David Parsons's** (MA, 1991) fifth book of poems, *Reaching For Longer Water* (Texas Review Press/Texas A&M University Press) was published this past May. David also had poems published in *The Southern Poetry Review*, *Writing Texas*, *Cooking With Texas Poets Laureate*, *The*



*World Keeps Moving To Light: State Poets Laureate Renga, A Texas Garden of Verses, The Texas Review, and Peruvian Basin Beyond.*

Early next year, the anthology David co-edited with Wendy Barker, *Far Out: Poems of the Sixties* will be published by Wings Press. David also continues to teach creative writing workshops at LSC-Montgomery, and co-direct the Writers in Performance Series with good friend and UH Alum, Cliff Hudder.

**Michael Powers** (MFA, 2008) completed his first year at the University of Southern California's PhD in Creative Writing and Literature program. He has been awarded a summer fellowship to conduct research on his novel at Martha's Vineyard.

**Carol Quinn** (Ph.D., 2005) won the spring 2014 Poetry Prize at *So to Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art*. In January, she was married Alvaro Duran.

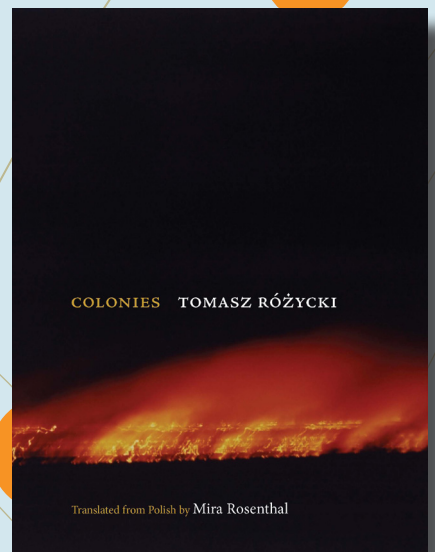
**Dan Rifenburg's** second book, *Isthmus*, was published recently by Matabilis Press of



Houston, accompanied by readings at Brazos Bookstore and The Jung Center. Dan has received the Natalie Ornish Award and a Dobie Paisano Fellowship from the

Texas Institute of Letters and a Sewanee Writers Conference scholarship. He was invited to read at The Royal Festival Hall in London, The Wordsworth Trust at Grasmere and Christchurch College, Oxford. He has retired from truck driving and living in the Champions area of North Houston after 25 years in The Heights.

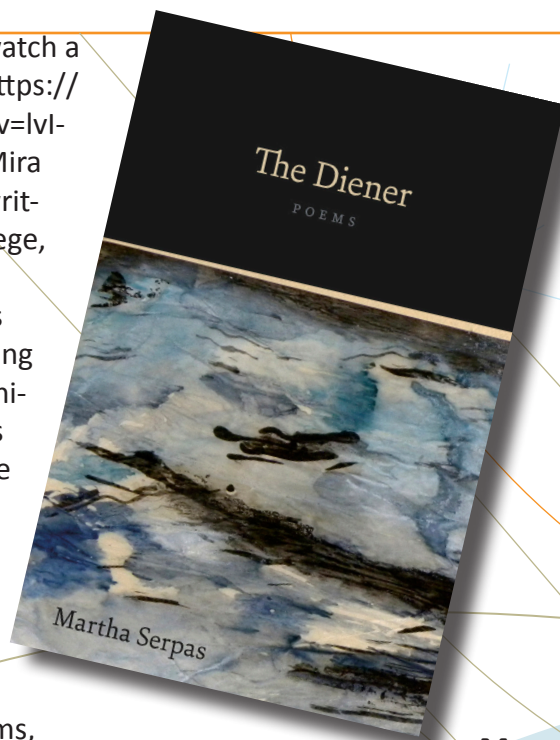
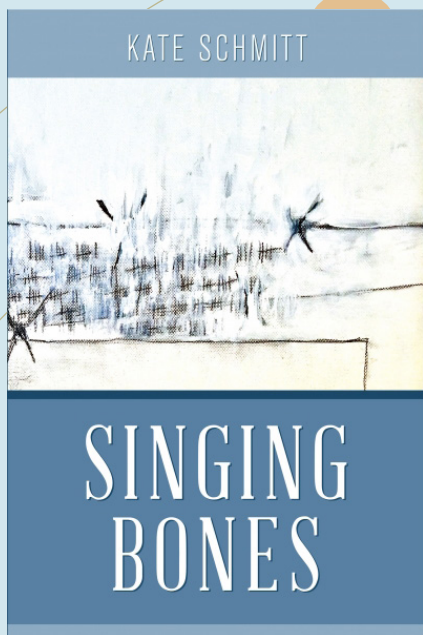
**Mira Rosenthal's** (MFA, 2005) translation of Polish poet Tomasz Rozycki's *Colonies* won the Northern California Book Award and was shortlisted for numerous other prizes, including the prestigious International Griffin Poetry Prize and the Oxford-Weidenfeld



Translation Prize. You can watch a video about the Griffin at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv1-m8rMpkE4>. In the spring, Mira taught advanced creative writing students at Cornell College, where she was the Distinguished Visiting Writer. This coming fall, she will be joining the English faculty at the University of South Alabama as the new Director of Creative Writing. [www.mirarosen-thal.com](http://www.mirarosen-thal.com)

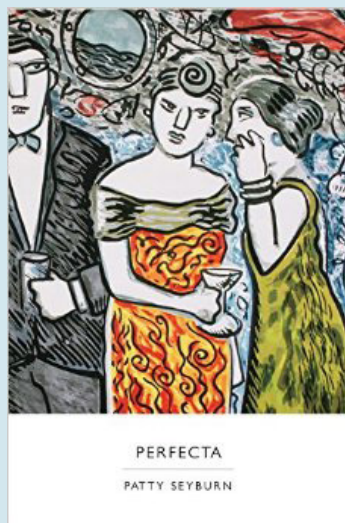
**Lindsey Royce** (Ph.D., 2006) had her book of poems, *Bare Hands*, accepted for publication by WordTech Communications. It will come out in September of 2016.

**Kate Schmitt's** (MFA, 2000 / Ph.D. 2008) book, *Singing Bones*, won the Zone 3 Creative Nonfiction Prize and was published in October 2014.



**Martha Serpas's** (Ph.D., 1998) newest collection of poems, *The Diener*, was published by LSU Press in March 2015. *The Diener* (the title refers to the person who attends the hospital morgue) investigates loss and healing, change and permanence, in a hospital trauma center and in the eroding landscape of southern Louisiana. Included poems were published in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Southwest Review*, *Image*, *The Hopkins Review*, and at least three obscure student journals. She appeared at the Louisiana Book Festival and participated in a panel honoring Cynthia Macdonald at AWP.

**Patty Seyburn's** (Ph.D., 2003) fourth book of poems, *Perfecta*, was published by What Books Press in 2014. Patty also won a Pushcart



Prize for her poem, "The Case for Free Will," published in *Arroyo Literary Journal*. She is an Associate Professor at California State University, Long Beach and co-editor of *POOL: A Journal of Poetry* ([www.poolpoetry.com](http://www.poolpoetry.com)).

**Glen Shaheen's** (MFA, 2008) second book of poems, *Energy Corridor*, is forthcoming from the University of Pittsburgh Press in spring of 2016.

**Matthew Siegel's** (MFA, 2009)



first book of poems, *Blood Work*, came out with University of Wisconsin Press and CB Editions in the UK, and is shortlisted for the Forward/Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection in the UK. He also recently had a poem published in the Guardian.

**Marilyn Sta-blein's** (MA, 1984)

new book, *Bind, Alter, Fold: Artist Books*, a 90 page art catalog of 38 of her handmade artist books, was featured in Garnet News Artist of the Week. The book was published by Book Arts Editions, Portland, OR, and is available to order through Marilyn's website <http://marilynstablein.com>. In May she participated in an international Poetry Festival in Nanaimo, BC and had work published in a Canadian anthology celebrating the NW bioregion *Make It True: Poetry from Cascadia* and a chapbook *Cascadia* from Leaf Press. Other work was published or is forthcoming in *Portland Review*, *Otoliths*, *Kyoto Journal* and the *Malpais Review*.

BIND, ALTER, FOLD  
Artist Books

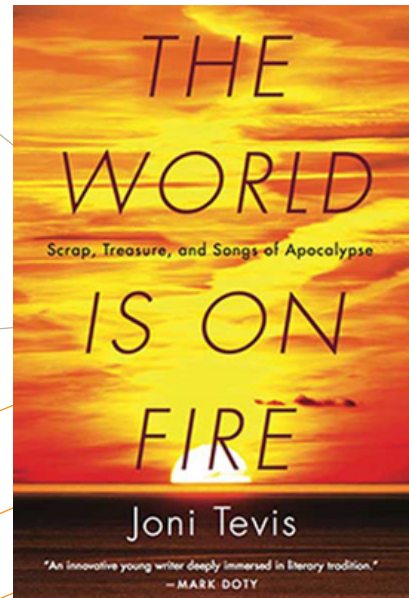


Marilyn Stablein

**Ian Stansel's** (Ph.D., 2012) collection of stories, *Everybody's Irish*, was a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for debut fiction. Recently he has published fiction and nonfiction in *Joyland*, *Cutbank*, and elsewhere. In the fall of 2015 he will begin work as Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Louisville.

**Gail (Donohue) Storey's** (MA, 1982; CWP Administrative Director, 1982-1986) memoir, *I Promise Not to Suffer: A Fool for Love Hikes the Pacific Crest Trail*, won the National Outdoor Book Award, Foreword IndieFab Book of the Year, Nautilus Silver Award, Colorado Book Award, and Barbara Savage Award (Mountaineers Books). *I Promise Not to Suffer* is now out in its second printing with a Reader's Guide including an interview between Gail and her editor and Questions and Topics for Group Discussion. Her website, including book trailer, is at [gailstorey.com](http://gailstorey.com).

Gail was also very happy to return to UH as Visiting Nonfiction Writer-in-Residence for this year's Boldface Conference. Her latest adventure is the 3,100-mile Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to Canada with her husband. She's blogging about it at <http://www.gailstorey.com/blog>.



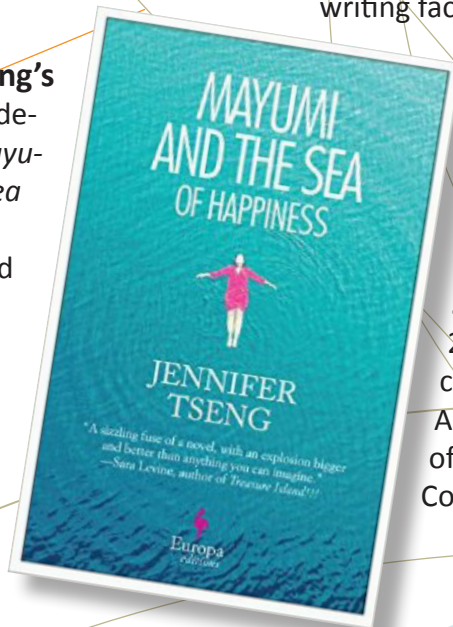
**Joni Tevis's** (MFA, 2001 / Ph.D., 2005) new book of nonfiction, *The World Is On Fire: Scrap, Treasure, and Songs of Apocalypse* was recently published by Milkweed Editions.

**Michael Theune** (Ph.D., 2002) co-authored an essay, "The Poetry of Evaluation: Helping Students Explore How They Value Verse," which appears in *Creative Writing and Education* (Multilingual Matters, 2015). A collection of his aphorisms will appear later this year in *Short Flights: Thirty-Two Modern Writers Share Aphorisms of Insight, Inspiration, and Wit* (Schaffner, 2015). Additionally, at Illinois Wesleyan University, Michael has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor and, for a three-year term, named University Writing Program Director.

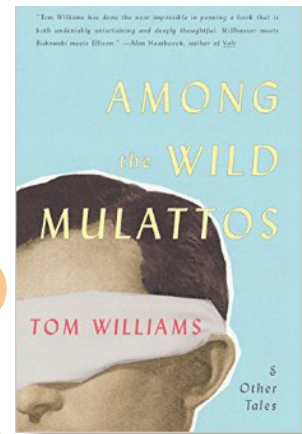
**Robert Tinajero** (Ph. D., 2004) recently gave a TEDx talk in El Paso titled "Everyday Racism."

It was also selected by Victoria Chang for the *Poets & Writers* debut poets issue. In the fall, she will join the St. Edward's creative writing faculty in Austin, where she lives with her husband, poet Charlie Clark, and their daughter.

**Jennifer Tseng's** (MFA, 2002) debut novel *Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness* was published in May 2015 by Europa Editions. It was included in the LA Times' Summer Reading Guide: 23 fiction books you'll want to read -- and share -- this summer.



**Jacob White** (Ph.D., 2008) recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Writing at Ithaca College.



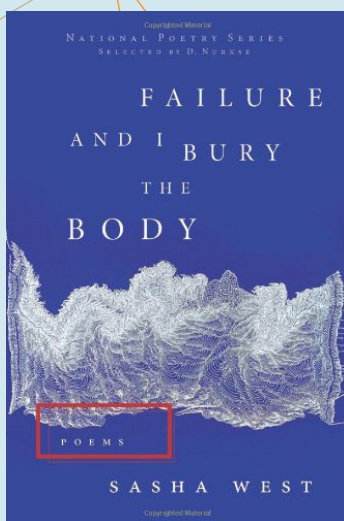
third book of fiction, along with the novella *The Mimic's Own Voice* (Main Street Rag Publishing Co.) and the novel *Don't Start Me Talkin'* (Curbside Splendor). He currently lives with his wife, Carmen Edington, and their children in Kentucky, where he chairs the English Department at Morehead State University.

**Becca Wadlinger** (Ph.D., 2013) writes in the Creative Department for the global ad agency Wieden+Kennedy. Recent poems have been published in *Tin House*, *Makeout Creek* and other journals. She lives in Portland with her husband and daughter Poe.

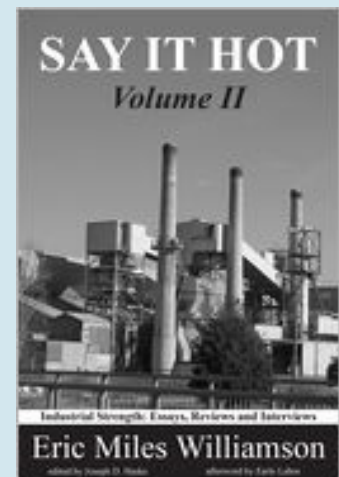
**Jessica Wilbanks's** (MFA, 2011) essay "Ghost Language" was recently selected by Leslie Jamison as the winner of the *Sycamore Review's* 2014 Creative Nonfiction Contest. Another essay, "On the Far Side of the Fire," which won *Ninth Letter's* creative nonfiction contest in 2013, was also named as a finalist for the PEN Center USA's 2014 Literary Award in Journalism.

**Eric Miles Williamson** (MFA, 1991) is serving the ninth year of his sentence at UT Pan American in the Rio Grande Valley. His seventh book, *Say It Hot, Volume II*, appears this year. He was keynote speaker at NoirCon in Philadelphia. The previous keynote speakers were Joyce Carol Oates and Robert Olin Butler. He is a breeder: he has four children, to the best of his knowledge.

**Sasha West's** (Ph.D., 2007) first book of poems, *Failure and I Bury the Body* (Harper Perennial, 2013), won the National Poetry Series and the Texas Institute of Letters Bob Bush First Book of Poetry Award.



**Tom Williams** (Ph.D., 1996) published a collection of stories called *Among the Wild Mulattos and Other Tales* (Texas Review Press) this past July. Hailed by fellow UH alum Nina McConigley as a book that "tells a story we need to hear about America," it is Tom's



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