

SO IT GOES...

an annual publication of Notre Dame's Graduate Creative Writing Program for alumni and friends



Number 15

Summer 2013

A Letter from the Director



I am delighted to announce that four graduates of our MFA Program have published poetry chapbooks with Finishing Line Press: *Period-*

icity by **Iris A. Law**, *Imposition of Form on the Natural World* by **Jayne Marek**, *A Lovely Box* by **Christine Kubasta** and *Treatment Island* by **Jessica Maich**.

Congratulations as well to **Lauro Vazquez-Rueda** (MFA 2012) who won this year's Sparks Fellowship.

Our faculty have also been quite busy in the publication realm. **Valerie Sayers'** new novel *The Powers* (Northwestern University Press) has been received enthusiastically by both critics and readers. **Steve Tomasula's** novel *IN & OZ* was reissued by the University of Chicago Press. **Johannes Göransson's** hybrid text *Haute Surveillance* was published by Tarpaulin Sky Press. **Joyelle McSweeney** spent the year teaching at the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop, her alma mater.

On a more personal note, I am honored that my manuscript *Fetish* won the 2012 Prairie Schooner Book Prize

in Poetry, which will appear from the University of Nebraska Press later this year.

Yes, indeed, our faculty and graduates continue to excel.

Best wishes to our graduating class of 2013 and warm greetings to the incoming class of 2015.

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Visiting Writers 2012-2013

We were fortunate this year to have a full lineup of visiting writers come to Notre Dame and grace us both with their presence and their work. Most of the readings took place in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore in front of a set of grandly picturesque windows and underscored by the occasional espresso machine sonata.



The fall semester's readings began swimmingly with a highly enjoyable evening on August 29th and a reading from Notre Dame's

own beloved **William O'Rourke**. O'Rourke was unstoppably humorous in his tirade against the current world of publishing and the problematics of writing on the internet, where everyone seems to think themselves a journalist of sorts. Turning to a section from his most recent publication, *Confessions of a Guilty Freelancer*, O'Rourke had all in attendance pondering

the ways in which the portrayal of events is affected by who is telling the story. O'Rourke also read from the 40th anniversary edition of his book *The Harrisburg 7 and the New Catholic Left*, making self-deprecating jokes and deep insights along the way.

Following O'Rourke's rousing performance was a reading by **Benjamin Balthaser** on September 12th from his book *Dedication*, which echoes the voices of those tried by the House Un-American Activities Committee, those silenced by the black-list and forced to change their names, leave their family and friends, and live their lives haunted by the FBI. His reading held the audience captive throughout, his attitude relaxed and inviting, but appropriately serious.



On September 19th we were lucky

enough to be graced with the presence of two fabulous poets, **Feng Chen** and **Olivia Cronk**. Chen was up first, reading from her book *Blud*, a series about a pig-girl, and with her quiet voice and friendly manner she had everyone listening intently to the sharp images and sly humor of her work, laughing under their breath.

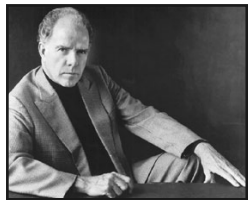


Olivia Cronk read from her book *Skin Horse* as well as a new manuscript. Cronk seemed comfortable laughing at herself and the awkwardness created by the replacement of the pronoun "you" in some of her poems with a noise produced by a sharp exhalation of breath. The reading as a whole was



an exciting and almost breath-less experience and it was truly a joy to have such young and talented female poets among us.

William Kennedy's reading from his book *Chango's Beads and Two-Tone Shoes* on September 26th was absolutely packed



to the rafters. The room was hushed during his introduction and awed by the scope and magnitude of his accomplishments. He read from a section of the book that begins with the narrator's chance meeting with Ernest Hemingway in a bar in Havana, Cuba (luckily not getting punched in the face) and ends with the disastrous March 13, 1957 attack on the palace that attempted to kill Batista and overthrow the dictatorship. Kennedy captured our imaginations with his devastatingly real account of these events and the humanity of those involved through his deft use of humor and his personal humility (also evidenced in his post-reading meeting with William O'Rourke and two of our own MFA students) for an altogether spellbinding and enjoyable reading.

Our newest Creative Writing faculty member, **Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi**, read from the second chapter



of her recently published (and quite celebrated) novel, *Fra Keeler*, on the extremely cold and rainy evening of October 3rd. The sky was darkening

just beyond the large bookstore windows, creating the perfect atmosphere for the unbalanced obsession and introspective intensity of her narrator. Her reading was nearly hypnotic as some of the audience nodded with

their heads lowered or followed along in the book. The brief reception afterward was lovely and offered the opportunity to speak more casually with Azareen about her work.

Fred Arroyo read from his collection *Western Ave and Other Fictions* to a standing-room-only crowd on October 4th in an event sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies. He forced himself to speak as little as possible about the pieces, but found himself explaining things and then stopping



abruptly to remind himself that he was just going to read! His stories seemed to share a similar loneliness, a feeling of being lost in a world

that you should know very well. In the Q&A, Arroyo spoke eloquently about the Michiana region, immigration in general and more specifically from Puerto Rico, as well as his method about writing numerous and diverse characters in his work.

John Wilkinson visited us on October 8th for a lecture and reading which took place in the Hesburgh Libraries Special Collections and Rare Books room, which created an



intimate but archaic atmosphere, almost as though there should have been a roaring fire in one corner with a sulky Master Heathcliff sitting before it. His lecture on "Repeatable Evanescence" (by which we assume he does not mean the band Evanescence) focused on several poems in particular and featured visual aids like an image of Jackson Pollock's grave. A brief wine and cheese intermission lifted our spirits and then Wilkinson returned to the pulpit, explaining that one of his recent books was reviewed

as the most over-written book of all time. His poems were certainly an earful and, we assume from observation, an overwhelming mouthful.

Laura Mullen read on October 10th.

Sweet and personable from the start, she explained her interest in playing with and drawing attention to the conventions of genre, specifically those of the murder mystery and romance in her recent books. Her voice was clear and confident, as she lightly skipped across the page reading poems first about the mice she had to "take care of" then on to her book *Murmur* (2007) which handles with incredible dexterity the manipulation of the murder mystery genre and blurs the line between living and dead, self and other, love and destruction. She also read from her book *Enduring Freedom* (2011), which uses the romance genre as a base. The poems wedded war and weddings, inciting laughter from the crowd during an extended piece in which male characters aggressively "plunder" the soft, warm mouths of their lovers and a piece (with the assistance of our very own **Evan Bryson** and **Peter Twal**) listing the hilarious and disturbing names of military operations from wars. Mullen's reading was engaging and relaxed, the audience clearly comfortable in her presence and she clearly comfortable in theirs. Afterwards, Mullen happily chatted with everyone as she signed their books next to the stage, welcoming all of her listeners and readers as though they were her close friends.



Steve Tomasula gave a lovely introduction of **Carole Maso** in the Eck Center Auditorium, who began by reading an atmospheric section from her upcoming novel (which she has been working on for a very long 2

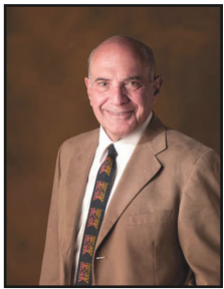
time). Her voice was soft and the description moved fluidly, hypnotically. She apologized if she had put us to sleep and moved on to read from her recently released novel, *Mother & Child*. The audience was engaged and enthralled by the world she created.

That evening she shared her insights on writing and explained the publication process for her novel, *The Art Lover*, at a party hosted by Tomasula. She was honest about the difficult process of publishing such a personal and fragmented novel, but also displayed a vigilance in maintaining the essential elements of her own writing despite protests from publishers.



She also answered questions about her decision to not attend a graduate school program. At lunch the next day, she spoke about her respect for the Creative Writing Program at Notre Dame, especially in comparison to larger programs that do not provide the atmosphere and community that is so important for writers to succeed.

On the afternoon of November 16th, **Sam Hazo** graced us with his presence, reading (or reciting, as it seems he has all of his poems committed to memory—very impressive) from his work to a crowd pleased-as-punch. His kindness was welcoming and he even gave some students free copies of his book, quite generous!



During his reading on November 28th, **Eli Goldblatt** freed himself from the confines of the mic and podium almost immediately. The bookstore was calm and nearly empty as Goldblatt stood amidst the chairs in the audi-

ence and read about the death of his father, his time in medical school, and the writing life. His stories were interesting and funny, and he provided in depth commentary on everything he read. He answered questions and encouraged a discussion about the writing life.



Visiting Professor **Susan Ramsey**, a graduate of the Notre Dame MFA Program, kicked off our spring semester readings with selections from her book *A Mind Like This* and her inviting nature. Ramsey began by speaking briefly of her bout with palsy, which, despite its physical effects, did not keep her from being one of the most animated readers we've seen. She read poems about how her mind seems to function, and poems about strange historical figures in odd modern day situations. She spoke directly to the audience, often looking up and reciting much of each poem from memory to allow prolonged eye-contact.



On a cold, wintry, January 30th night, it was a pleasure to cozy up with friends, colleagues, and strangers(?) to hear our close friend **Steve Tomasula** read about the "fictional" cities of *In & Oz*. Drawing on various observations and aspects of the world around him, Tomasula's novel creates allegorical characters named after their occupations (Poet/Sculptor, Mechanic, Photographer, etc.) who are somehow both over-the-top and incredibly relatable. The story of *In & Oz* and our Mechanic/Protag-



onist sat close to home for many in the audience, as we saw the connections between South Bend's deceased auto industry and In's, the polluted river that has caught fire, and the Mechanic, who, despite his desire to be Artist/Sculptor, takes an (almost-literally) mechanical job as a toll booth operator in order to support himself and be able to continue to do creative work. And yet, the reading was not without humor or hope! All were in good spirits throughout and Steve's gracious and familiar manner helped make the event a pleasant night for all in attendance.

Many braved the weather on February 6th to hear 2012-2013 Sparks Fellow **Bryant Davis** read from his work



Love Songs for Fascists and his novella *The Fourth Reich in Pennsylvania*, combining the story of young boys from the small town in Pennsylvania, where Davis himself is from, who find something to identify with in the practices and mentality of the fascist party and love songs written to places and figures and things like Sharon Stone, Joe Biden, and China. The work, and Davis's reading style, engaged the audience with humor and punched us in the emotional gut with empathetic misfits and the praising of unsteady Messiahs. The balance between the self-awareness and total obliviousness of the characters reminded us of the contradictions between our own youthful ideals and the realities of the world we live in.

On February 20th, **Mark Brazaitis** approached the podium after an attractive introduction by **Valerie Sayers**, in which she described the long and positive relationship that Notre Dame,

especially the *Notre Dame Review*, has with him. Brazaitis expressed his gratitude for the thoughtful guidance and support that Valerie and William O'Rourke have shown him over the years. He began by reading a few poems and a short bit from an earlier collection inspired by his time in Guatemala with the Peace Corps. Finally, he read the last story in his collection *The Incurables*, a story not quite as humorous as other stories in the collection, but equally wrought with pathos, with the utter hopelessness of those affected by depression, as well as the potential moments of hope one must acknowledge in order to become healthy. The story dealt with a man, who had attempted suicide, speaking with the wife of a college friend who had killed himself and seeing their situation as an avoided potential version of his own story. The audience was silent and enraptured by the plain, straight-forward prose and the strong, yet conflicted voice of the narrator and Mark Brazaitis.



Renée D'Aoust visited us on February 27th. **William O'Rourke** introduced Renée by speaking broadly about dancers he had seen in windows in New York, and his enthusiasm to have Renée here after learning she was a dancer. Renée gave a heartfelt thanks to the Notre Dame MFA program, from which she graduated, and read, enthusiastically, from her collection of essays, *Body of a Dancer*. She paused part way through and adorned herself with a flowing scarf to mix things up and read one more essay about wardrobe choices for a perfor-



mance and happily answered questions about the importance of an MFA program and how her knowledge of dance affects the way she writes. The following day she gave a wonderful lunch talk about performance, and how to be a good reader.

On March 20th, alum **Rebecca Hazelton** returned to Notre Dame and **John Matthias** provided a short and sincere introduction, after which Rebecca began reading poems from *Fair Copy*, a book of acrostics taken from Emily Dickinson poems. She provided amusing and light-hearted repartee between poems. She ended with poems from her newest collection, *Vow*, which were bodily and visceral in really inviting ways. Her Rabbit and Fox poems seemed to go over particularly well. She ended by fielding questions about her greatest influences and the acrostic writing process, as well as signing books and drawing wonderful animals of all variety with her inscriptions.



It was a capacity crowd on April 3rd in the Eck Center Auditorium for **Valerie Sayers** and **Alex MacLeod's** reading. Valerie was up to bat first (ha ha), reading a section from her new novel *The Powers*. The protagonist of this section, Babe O'Leary, was somehow both amiable and offensive as the combination of baseball and superstitious magic brought the audience into the story, excited to learn the fate of both Babe and her beloved Yankees in the tense atmosphere of the early 1940's.



Notre Dame alum **Alex MacLeod** was second in the order, reading from his (highly celebrated) collection of stories *Light Lifting*. He read part of a story about two friends who had been professional sprinters together for many years, one of whose careers is nearing its end. The cadence of the story and the narrator's voice were enchanting, the story and characters sympathetic and real. There didn't seem to be a single person in attendance who did not fall completely into the story.



Following the reading there was a reception to celebrate the release of Valerie's book and all were happy to toast her, and Alex as well, with a glass of wine and a bite of dessert.

Swedish poet **Aase Berg** came to South Bend on April 8th to join us for both an afternoon Q&A session and a reading that evening. The Q&A session offered the opportunity for students to gain insight into Berg's work and her ideas about poetry as a whole. That evening, Aase read from her books *Dark Matter* and *Transfer Fat*, both translated from Swedish by **Johannes Göransson**. Her work calls on an incredible variety of sources, somehow making them all come together in a confluence of existence. And it all feels important. Aase's quiet voice drew everyone in as the poetry took on an incantatory effect, hushed magic filling the air. After the reading **Kate Marshall** held a small reception at her (beautiful) house to celebrate our talented guest.



On April 13, after a complete and



lovingly accurate account of **Marilynne Robinson's** writing and role as an American literary hero from **Valerie Sayers**, Marilynne Robinson acquired

the podium. She presented a history of the world within *Gilead*, her second novel before reading from a section near the end. It is difficult to attribute much weight to her voice or delivery, considering the attention that must be paid to her carefully chosen words, the deftness of her skill in composing scenes wrought with the deepest and most ordinary of emotions with simple and concise dialogue. She ended with an excerpt from *Home*, her most recent novel.

2013 Sandeen Prize in Poetry

Congratulations to

Manuel Paul López

winner of the 2013 Sandeen Prize for his manuscript

The Yearning Feed

which will be published by the
University of Notre Dame Press in Fall 2013.

The Sandeen Prize for Poetry was judged by
professors Orlando Menes and Joyelle McSweeney.

The MFA Reading Series & Other Local Events

This year we also had a full schedule of MFA candidate readings which were all very exciting and perfectly executed, as well as some special and super-gorgeous events both on campus and around the town! Here's the inside scoop on everything that went down.

Our very first event in the MFA Reading Series took place on November 7th in the well-lit Carey Auditorium and featured our darling dears **Margaret Emma "Meg" Brandl**, **Megan Elise**, and **Steve Owen**. **Evan Bryson** began the reading by introducing **Meg Brandl**, who read from one of her thesis novellas, *Gods of Nagasaki*, in which she speaks as herself, martyrs, victims of the atomic bomb, and many others to convey the troubled yet diverse history of Nagasaki that existed before and continues after the tragedy of 1945.

Next, **Lauro Vazquez** introduced **Megan Elise** by speaking about her work as a map, a complicated geog-

raphy of image and sound through which one must navigate. Megan read from two series of poems: *Hydra*, which was focused primarily on sound, and *This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things*, which combines two young children playing house with some wonderfully disturbing and mature elements.

Finally, **Christine Texeira** introduced **Steve Owen** with a brief scene from *Twin Peaks*. (Harry Truman: "Good God"). Steve read from some of the most compelling moments of his work, *The Chalk Tree*, in which we see the narrator identify and interact with his father and the dog and images of M with a razor. The reading ended on a dark and endearingly strange note before a quick adieu from **Alice Ladrack**.

The second event in this lovely series happened suddenly (just kidding) on November 15 when **Thade Correa**, **Drew Kalbach**, and **Lauro Vazquez** graced us with their poetry. To kick

off the all-male all-poetry all-event, **Megan Elise** introduced **Thade Correa**, identifying him as "not a potato" (all are assumed human until proven potato). Thade read from poems centered around each season, transporting the audience to transcendent locations and making us all feel as though we were experiencing each season in turn, inside his musical and moving poetry.

Thade then introduced **Lauro Vazquez** (also not a potato, though this has never been tasted, i.e. tested), who read from his poems focusing on issues relating to heritage and the concerns and problems of colonialism. The audience was entranced by the image of Icarus' flight too close to the sun and his subsequent crashing to earth as a metaphor for humanity broadened through our own dreams and expansions of importance.

Lauro then, in turn, introduced **Drew Kalbach** (definitely a potato), who wrapped things up on perhaps a more

humorous note with poems that focus on technology's invasion of our bodies and minds, lives and loves. Rife with jokes and yet still haunting, he had the audience both laughing and looking at their smartphones with suspicion.

Despite the lack of a microphone (thanks LaFortune), our final MFA Reading of the semester was a hit! **Beth Towle** kicked off the evening, after a warm introduction by **Drew Kalbach**, with her poems about local legend *The Huckleberry Queen*, a woman who supposedly lived in Beth's hometown of Walkerton and was the source of much (sexy) controversy. Beth's poems are dark and yet vibrant, putting the audience on the edge of tumbling fully into the foggy realm of the Huckleberry Marshes.

Leo Costigan then (with enthusiasm and charmingly nervous humor) introduced **Evan Bryson**, who read from letters between himself and his twin brother, AJ, giving us a familiar view into Evan's efforts to contact the late ghosts of Herman Melville and his son, who committed suicide at 18. The private nature of their correspondence drew the audience in and had us hanging on his words as his tribulations in harnessing the spirit of Melville and just figuring out who he was as a writer, and AJ's fears amidst loving sincerity about being a father took

the forefront.

Evan stayed at the imaginary microphone to introduce **Katie Lattari**, who read from a piece that was highly experiential and submerged us into the world of Portland, Maine's indie music scene, the bass vibrating in each person's core to send us wandering home after the event.

Our Sparks Fellow **Bryant Davis** introduced the final reader of the evening, **Alireza Taheri Araghi**, preparing us all for the obnoxiousness of Ali's amazing talent to write so beautifully in two languages so distant from one another as English and Farsi. Alireza's story brought us into a world both tense and magical as we followed two little boys through a town at the base of the mountain range outside of Tehran as they chased bears that fall from the sky with giant umbrellas in the 1940's. Ali's reading was one of many beyond enjoyable surprises from the works read that night.

We had an exciting and special event off-campus this fall at **Chez Peter Twal** on November 9th, when poets (and friends) of **Johannes Göransson** (remember him?) joined us to give an informal reading. **Martin Glaz Serup** read to us in both Danish and English from his long poem *The Field* (Les Figues Press, 2011) while **Christine**

Wertheim performed various pieces for us with great gusto! Wine and an excellent evening were had by all. Many thanks to Martin, Christine, Johannes, and Peter for making it happen!

This fall we also held an open house in the great hall of O'Shag that featured drinks, snacks, and readings by faculty, MFAs, and undergrads alike! The event was an encouraging display of the wonderful writing happening in the Notre Dame Community. Thanks to **Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi** and all who helped by reading or organizing!

And then spring came! And then winter continued! In January, our first MFA reading began with a quick welcome from **Christine Texeira** and then **Mari Christmas** took the stage to introduce poet **Alice Ladrick**. Her introduction included a splendid talk about cats and feminism, which applied perfectly to Alice's poetry. Alice read poems from a new series that were funny (vajazzling) but also brought up some interesting commentary on pop culture, media, and the women in those fields.

Next, **Lauro Vazquez** took the stage to introduce **Jenica Moore**. Jenica began reading with no explanation, but none was needed. Her words came out clear and succinct, along with the poetic sounds of engines and water, transporting the

reader.

Katie Lattari then introduced **Christine Texeira**, the only fiction writer of the night, generally applauding her awesomeness and hyping the crowd. Christine's story about a young girl and her imagined/unimagined older brother, a being of her dreams (or not), who morphs (or not) into D.B. Cooper and comes to her kitchen at night to bake pot pies was quasi-fantastical, enthralling the audience, making us feel as though maybe we'd all remembered our older brother who never existed and experienced the loss that comes from losing something you'd only imagined you'd had.

Jayme Russell ascended the stage to introduce **Peter Twal**. Peter read from a series of poems involving Milo and a friend hanging up his penis. Then he read from his chapbook, *Sissy Bullshit and All of the Above*, about a down-trodden man thinking about Alyson and finding comfort in an orange. Alice then arose and shooed everyone off into the blustery night.

On February 1st, another special reading was hosted at **Chez Twal** featuring readings by **Ruaun Klassnik**, **Matthew Suss**, **Joyelle McSweeney**, and **Johannes Göransson**, all of whom have new books out or coming out! The reading was relaxed

and cozy as **Evan Bryson** filmed the readers and a grotesque, post-apocalyptic-yet-humorous tone filled the room and a great time was had by all. Thanks to Peter, Ruaun, Matthew, Joyelle, and Johannes for making this happen and being such wonderful hosts/readers!

March 22nd we held a very special Slam Poetry Workshop with **Marty McConnell** in preparation for the WHAM, BAM, Poetry Slam! Marty led a truly wonderful and honest workshop on the art of slam, providing a basic foundation for slam, its rules and how it relates to performance poetry in general before moving on to talk about performance strategy. The workshop ended with Marty providing volunteers with on the spot coaching advice and welcoming comments from the audience. Marty is a passionate and comfortable expert on slam, one who conveyed both the power and freedom of the form in the one-hour time frame. Thanks to Marty for joining us and giving a brilliant and insightful workshop!

This spring, **Azareen Van Der Vliet Oloomi** and **Leonardo Francalanci** started the *Mela Writers Salon*, an event/series in which writers from all over, including right here in town, come to listen to literature, talk, and enjoy each other's company in a

casual setting.

Our second MFA Reading of the semester featured **Lynda Letona, Jayme Russell, and Kaushik Viswanath**. An introduction from introducer extraordinaire, **Lauro Vazquez**, led the audience immediately into a performance of poetry from a strong and powerful female voice. Lynda, standing without podium or intrusive microphone, spoke with rage, with passion, with heartfelt sadness from the pages of her recent work.

Peter Twal then sweetly and accurately introduced the dark and whimsical world of **Jayme Russell's** narrative poems. Reading from a series of poems inspired by and in conversation with the David Bowie of the critically acclaimed classic, *Labyrinth*, Jayme brought the audience along on the floating, fairy tale journey.

Bryant Davis, the last introducer of the night, vehemently praised and violently touted the work of **Kaushik Viswanath**. A work about a man slowly crumbling into his own animal nature, surrounded in garbage more comforting than the presence of his own wife, a flash fiction piece about a boy's malicious power of thunder and an excerpt about the passage of time dreamily experienced through a train ride seeped out of Kaushik's

mouth with dry, dark humor of a kind that is slippery and sticky all at once.

In our final MFA Reading of the semester, **Alireza Taheri Araghi**, adorned with a classy fedora introduced **Mari Christmas**, who read three short pieces. The first was a story of war and uprising in Mexico balanced and reflected with the lovely image of a half cat. Next she read a short about a self-destructive man finding contentment in the marriage of his close friend, and finally, a flash fiction piece in which a mother imagines building a ship inside the body of her son.

Kaushik then emerged to introduce **Emily Grecki** in his booming voice. He explained that her work would literally blow our minds—all over the walls. Emily proceeded to do so by reading a section from a story about spirit animals and their less-than-helpful guidance of Blade. She used wonderful and haunting voices to distinguish characters and the spirit animals within.

Lastly, **Evan Bryson** took the stage to introduce his former lover, his sweet-smiled heart-breaker, **Leo Costigan**. Leo read from three connected stories about a warty penis, a double abortion, and ice fishing. A man's man, Leo towered over the audience in pure control of their edge-of-their-seat emotions.

2013 - 2014
Reading
Series

[unofficial with MANY
more to be added]

August:

September:

October:

9 Rachel Blau DuPlessis

November:

6 Orlando Ricardo Menes

December:

St. Nicholas

January:

February:

12 Manuel Paul López

March:

April:

MFA Thesis Reading

May:



Margaret Emma Brandl ('13) once again sang in three ensembles: Collegium Musicum, the St. Catherine of Alexandria Chapel Choir (in which she served as cantor), and a small ensemble for a conducting recital. She was nominated again for the AWP Intro to Journals Award in Nonfiction and fangirled over numerous authors at AWP. She participated in the second-year MFA reading, a few smaller readings at friends' houses, and the end-of-the-year thesis reading and was recently nominated for the *Iron Horse Literary Review* Discovered Voices Award in nonfiction. She served as lead facilitator for the Gender Relations Committee's A Time to Write workshop and did editorial work for the *A Time to Write* journal, *Re:Visions*, *The Bend*, the *Notre Dame Review*, the blog *Convos of Color*, and the journal she runs for high school students, *Filter and Fibre*. She looks forward to seeing what the future holds, which is another way of saying she has fifteen applications out and is wondering if she will hear anything back at all. At the time of this writing she has not received any of the fellowships she applied for (and is not likely to receive the ones she has yet to hear from), but she was a finalist in poetry (!) for the O'Connor Fellowship at Colgate University. In spite of her frequent travels, she did not get any better at traveling.

This year, **Evan Bryson** ('13) placed two stories, "Bottom Feeder" and "No More Anniversaries," with modest internet magazines. His experimental short film "Upon Joy and Evil" was accepted for the Cruelty Conference at the University of Southern California, and premiered in April, for which he received a grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. Evan also illustrated the chapbook cover for Carrie Lorig's poetry col-

lection *nods.*, released in May from Magic Helicopter Press.

Mari Christmas ('14) participated in the MFA Reading Series this spring and is looking forward to a summer in South Bend with her pup Kuma.

Thade Correa ('13) taught undergraduate Poetry Writing during the winter semester. During the spring, he participated in a groundbreaking Latino/a Poets Gathering at Notre Dame, organized by the Institute for Latino Studies. The roundtable discussion on such matters as poetics and Latino/a identity that preceded this gathering, as well as a selection of Correa's poetry, will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Ostrich Review*.

Leo Costigan ('14) lorded over the poetry slush pile at the *Notre Dame Review* and drove everyone to AWP in Boston. He also participated in the MFA Reading Series and avoided looking at the camera in pictures.

Bryant Davis, 2012-2013 Sparks Fellow, spent this year largely squandering his time on lighting increasingly large kitchen utensils on fire. He also wrote some stories, a bundle of Love Songs, two novellas, a third of a book of poems, and continued to work on assembling what will no doubt be the defining book on early 21st century nerd fascism in rural small town America, none of which anyone will publish. The rejection letters, though, he notes, are getting less and less mean spirited and now only occasionally begin with "PLEASE."

Megan Elise ('13) had a selection from her series *Hydra Roulette* nominated for the AWP Intro Journals Award. She is also a contributor to *The Actuary*.

Emily Grecki ('14) participated in

the MFA Reading Series and attended the smorgasbord of AWP. She was an editorial assistant for *Notre Dame Review*, and an editor for *The Bend* and *Re:Visions*. She was also a part of the *Finnegans Wake* reading group.

This year, **Drew Kalbach** ('13) had poems published by *Cabildo Quarterly*, *Radioactive Moat*, and *Whole Beast Rag*. He also created *The Actuary* and regularly publishes critical work there.

Alice Ladrack ('14) participated in the MFA Reading Series this spring and had work published in *Vector* and *Radioactive Moat*. She presented her lyric essay "To Mama Elsa, with love" (in absentia) at the Miami University English Graduate and Adjunct Association Symposium in March. She had a great time working in the program office this year but is looking forward to teaching creative writing in the fall.

Katie Lattari ('13) recently finished her thesis project and novel *All of the Everything*, which she intends to continue work on and eventually submit to publishers. In March, Katie's novella manuscript *American Vaudeville* was moved on to the second round of consideration for publication in Rescue Press's Open Prose Series, though ultimately the press went another way. The Kaneb Center recently awarded Katie an Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching award for her work with Introduction to Creative Writing and Introduction to Fiction Writing students on campus. She moves back to the great state of Maine after graduation, and is pursuing a copy editing job for a major newspaper there.

Lynda Letona ('14) participated in a Creative Nonfiction panel reading at the Writing by Degrees Conference



Our Busy Students -- MFA Life

in Binghamton, NY this fall. She received an Honorary Mention for her nonfiction piece “My Body is a Cage” in *Liternational* and she attended the AWP conference in Boston in March with the generous support of the Institute of Latino Studies.

Lynda also read from her work for the MFA Reading Series. This April, she participated in a Latino Roundtable with MFA poets from across the nation. The poets shared their poetry, participated in on-line discussion issues ranging from Latino identity to aesthetics, and met at the Notre Dame campus for a weekend of fellowship.

Jenica Moore (’14) participated in the MFA Reading Series this spring and received \$2500 in funding from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts to do research and translation work in Guadalajara, Mexico this summer.

Steve Owen’s (’13) whose *mixer*, a literary and avant-garde genre press and magazine, has been busy with a special issue devoted entirely to genre acrobat Stephen Graham Jones, author of *Demon Theory* and *The Last Final Girl*. The special issue also includes an introduction by Brian Even-son, author of the critically acclaimed collections *Altmann’s Tongue* and *The Wavering Knife*, which can be read here: <http://blog.mixerpublishing.com/?p=2067>. *mixer* is also holding a summer literary sci-fi contest with a prize of \$1,200 (go to: <http://mixer-publishing.com>).

Jayme Russell (’14) has recently participated in the MFA Reading Series, sharing work from her newest prose poetry sequence which blends fairy tale, medieval French romance, and cult film. This past year she also participated in the English Department’s Open House marathon reading session. Working with the Gender

Relations Center as a group facilitator, Jayme took part in A Time to Write, a day long writing event whose goal is to provide an opportunity for students and community members to write about violence. As well, she helped edit the *A Time to Write Journal*, which compiled writing about violence in order to raise awareness about the issue.

Alireza Taheri Araghi (’13) got rejection letters from such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *Agni*, *Tin House*, and *Glimmer Train* (among others). His achievement was publishing works by **Johannes Göransson** and **Mark Brazaitis** (among others) in *PARAGRAPHITI*—an online journal that he edits. His plan is to find some millionaires and talk them into coughing up a few grand for more *PARAGRAPHITI* expansions.

Christine Texeira (’14) read as part of the MFA Reading Series, Sonnet Fest, and Creative Writing Open House, and was the official score keeper at Notre Dame’s first poetry slam. She was an editorial assistant with *Notre Dame Review* and designed and served as an editor on the journals *Re:Visions* and *The Bend*. She also designed (sometimes successfully) reading posters for the 2012-2013 reading series during her lovely time working in the Creative Writing Program office. She is a recipient of the Sparks Prize Summer Internship and will be working at Park Literary Group in New York City for the upcoming summer. She considers the *Finnegans Wake* reading group to be a semester highlight.

This year, **Beth Towle** (’13) worked as a graduate tutor in the University Writing Center, leading a 4-week series of workshops called “NaNoWriMo—Creative Writing, Creative Research” and helping students on

an individual basis. She participated in the MFA Reading series in the fall and also the MFA Final Thesis Reading this April. Beth was also nominated by the faculty for *2013 Best American Poets*.

Peter’s Twal’s (’14) first year of his MFA has alerted him to a number of things, first and foremost being his inability to quantify or understand anything below 13 degrees. And then, some poetry. For the summer, he will return to New Orleans, LA where he was offered a job from the engineering firm he worked for before coming to Notre Dame. Both on land and at sea, he will program software to keep all kinds of boats constantly moving or sitting still, like children or children, respectively. This year, he participated in the MFA Reading Series at Notre Dame, hosted a number of readings at his house featuring poets from all over the world, and co-edited *The Bend*. His poem “On Forgetfulness” is forthcoming in *NAP Magazine*, and he is currently at work on a new project titled “Airplane Mode.”

Lauro Vazquez (’13) has poems forthcoming from *Mandorla*. This year he participated in a panel for the National Association for Chicana and Chicano studies program in San Antonio, Texas and read his work as part of the MFA Reading Series. Lauro was also nominated by the faculty for *2013 Best American Poets* and is the recipient of the 2013 Sparks Prize. Congratulations, Lauro!

Kaushik Viswanath (’14) was shortlisted for the 2013 Toto Awards - Writing (English) category by the Toto Funds the Arts organization in Bangalore, India for the second year in a row. He read as part of the MFA Reading Series this spring and presented his essay “Animal-ing the



Our Busy Students ---End of MFA Life



Inanimate: An Ecological Reading of Arun Kolatkar's Poetry" at The University of Virginia Department of English Graduate Conference in March. Kaushik is headed to New York this summer for an internship with Hachette Book Group.

THE AWP REPORT

This year, AWP was held in Boston at the Hynes Convention Center. Students attended both to sell books at the NDR/Creative Writing Program/University of Notre Dame Press table and for the literary experience of it!

Action Books had a table by all the cool kids' tables, **Steve Owen's** Mixer Publishing got stuck in a corner but was a hit nonetheless, **Jarrett Haley's** *BULL* was in the thick of things, and the NDR/CWP/UNDP table was in the AA row and featured signings by authors **Mark Brazaitis** (2012 Sullivan Prize Winner for *The Incurables*) and **Laurie Ann Guerrero** (2012 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize Recipient for *A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying*).

We had a lot of our folks, grads, and friends on panels and giving readings this year, among them **Johannes Göransson**, **Joyelle McSweeney**, **Orlando Menes**, **Valerie Sayers**, **Steve Tomasula**, **Cornelius Eady**, **Ed Falco**, **Beth Ann Fennelly**, **Francisco Aragon**, **Carina Finn**, **Marcela Sulak**, **Monica Mody**, **Toni Margarita Plummer**, **Luisa A. Igloria**, **Susan Blackwell Ramsey**, and **Rebecca Hazelton**. They presented and read on topics from poetic repetition to women in crime, from translation to lyricism, showcasing the wide range of interests and talents of the Notre Dame CW family! Congratulations to all on wonderful conference participation!

CONGRATULATIONS! to our 2013
Sparks Prize Winner

Lauro Vazquez

The Sparks Prize is a fellowship awarded to one graduating writer. The winner receives a generous stipend to live and write in South Bend for a third year to work on their manuscript.

Thanks always to Nicholas Sparks for his generous support of the fellowship.

MFA FINAL THESIS READING

The MFA Final Thesis Reading took place in the Philbin Studio Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Friday, April 27. Program Director Orlando Menes introduced the program for the evening, remarking how proud all the faculty are of the work our graduating class has created and expressed excitement for their future adventures and achievements.

We began with **Margaret Emma Brandl's** reading from her emotionally moving and lyrically interesting work *Gods of Nagasaki* and moved into **Evan Bryson's** piece about a farmer, his wife, the local police officer, and a dead boy missing his teeth.

Thade Correa enchanted us with his poem about the Buddha's assistant and entertained questions of religion and eternity, while **Drew Kalbach** plugged us in via sexed-up USB cable to a tech-savvy futurama. **Megan Elise** read from her intricately-woven work that provides music for both the ear and the heart.

After a short break for cake and punch and cookies and more cake, **Katie Lattari** Facebooked us with her brilliance, making us want to be able to be "in a relationship" with her novel ASAP. **Steve Owen** was unable to attend, so **Beth Towle**, local hero, was up next, bringing the Huckleberry Queen to life, burying her, and leaving us haunted by her ghost. To finish up, **Lauro Vazquez** read us a love poem and left everyone swooning, impressed by the majestic lyricism of his words.

And as we all know, after the show is the after party, and after the party is the hotel lobby, the hotel lobby, being Katie Lattari's house where all gathered to celebrate.

Thank you to our graduating class for an excellent two years at Notre Dame. We of the program wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and hope that as you move forward in your lives you carry a little hunk of Notre Dame with you—even if it's that crucifix you stole from your favorite classroom. But really though don't steal crucifixes.

SO IT GOES... is published annually by the Creative Writing Program at the University of Notre Dame.

Program Director: Orlando Menes

Editors: Alice Ladrack, the "voice of this rag"
Coleen J. Hoover, "buck stops here"

This year, **Johannes Göransson** published the novel/poem *Haute Surveillance* and the translation of Aase Berg's *Dark Matter (Mörk materia)*. Action Books published a bunch of great books, including Oliverio Girondo's legendary *En la masmedula (In the moremarrow)*, trans. by Molly Weigl), Lara Glenum's new book *Pop Corpse*, and *Burning City*, an international anthology of avant-garde poetry from the 1920s edited by Jed Rasula and Tim Conley. He also participated in literary festivals in Finland, US, South Korea and Sweden.

Joyelle McSweeney writes, "I've had an exciting year as a Visiting Associate Professor of Poetry at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, promoting my new poetry volume, *Percussion Grenade* (Fence 2012) and anticipating my new book of gothic stories, *Salamandrine, 8 Gothics* (Tarpaulin Sky, 2013). Just this April my play, *The Contagious Knives*, was staged by the Medicine Show Theatre Ensemble in New York City. This year our press, Action Books, published a host of new poetry by major poets from Mexico, Finland and Argentina as well as younger US poets. A busy year, but I will be happy to be back 'home' in the ND MFA this Fall."

Orlando Ricardo Menes' *Fetish*, winner of the 2012 Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, will be published in September 2013 by the University of Nebraska Press. Several of his poems appeared in the following journals as well: "Parable," "Panegyric for the Condor," and "Day of the Condor," *The Fiddlehead* [University of New Brunswick], no. 252 (Summer 2012), 75-77; "Aubade: The Charcoal Makers," *Crab Orchard Review* [Southern Illinois University at Carbondale], vol. 17, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2012), 149-150; "El Cristo de Piedra," *Image* [Center for Religious Humanism at Seattle Pacific University], no. 76 (Winter 2013), 100; "Den of the Lioness," *Huizache* [Centro Victoria at the University of Houston-Victoria] (Fall 2012), 158-159; "Acolytes" and "Village of the Water People," *The Caribbean Writer* [University of the Virgin Islands], vol. 26 (Fall 2012), 77-80. The poems "Elegy for Great-Uncle Julio, Cane Cutter" and "Television, a Patient Teacher" also appeared in *The Prairie Schooner Book Prize: Tenth Anniversary Reader*, edited by James Engelhardt and Marianne Kunkel (University of Nebraska Press, 2013). Finally, he participated in the panel "Island Hopping: A Multilingual Reading of Contemporary Caribbean Poetry" at the 2013 Associated Writing Programs Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, March 7-March 9, 2013.

William O'Rourke read at the Hammes Bookstore in

August at the start of the semester from the two books he published during the summer, *Confessions of a Guilty Freelancer* (Indiana University Press) and the 40th anniversary edition of *The Harrisburg 7 and New Catholic Left* (Notre Dame Press). In March he spoke at a post-premiere panel of the documentary *Hit & Stay: A History of Faith and Resistance*, which he appears in, at the Chicago Underground Film Festival, Logan Theater, Chicago, IL.

Valerie Sayers' novel *The Powers* was published oh-so-recently by Northwestern University Press. She's even appealed to Stephen Colbert of the Colbert Report, a fellow Catholic South Carolinian, for a Colbert Bump! Her other five novels, *Brain Fever* (1996), *The Distance Between Us* (1994), *Who Do You Love* (1991), *How I Got Him Back* (1989), and *Due East* (1987), will be published in new, uniform editions by Northwestern University Press in the near future.

Steve Tomasula published the novel *IN & OZ* (University of Chicago Press). He published the short stories "iSpace" in *The Sonora Review*; "The Historian" in *Booth: A Journal*; and "WeKIA" in *Quarterly West*; and the prose-poem "Our Moon Poem" in *Puerta del Sol: A Journal of New Literature*. He published the following essays: "Information Design, Emergent Culture, and Experimental Form in the Novel" and "Code and New-Media Literature," both in *The Routledge Companion to Experimental Literature* (New York: Routledge); and "Many Makers Make Baby Post: 40 Years of Reading 'The Babysitter'" in *The Review of Contemporary Fiction*; and "Narratology" in *Johanna Drucker: Druckworks, 40 Years of Books and Projects* (Chicago: The Center for Book and Paper Arts, Columbia College, Chicago). He read from his novel *TOC* as one of 9 authors invited to read during the Library of Congress's first exhibition of the history of digital literature, The Library of Congress, Washington D.C. He also gave invited readings from his fiction at the following venues: From *IN & OZ* at The University of Houston-Victoria; from *IN & OZ* at The Seminary Co-op Bookstore, University of Chicago; "TOC" at Sienna Heights University. He was also an invited speaker at the Newberry Library/ Caxton Club "Provocateurs in Print" Symposium, The Newberry Library, Chicago, and gave the talk "Making a Digital Book" in "Tactics & Technologies: Artists' Books and Means of Production, A Round Table Discussion" at The Center for Book and Paper Arts, Columbia College, Chicago. He presented the paper "Genetic Poetry" at Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Milwaukee, WI; and the papers "What is Con-

Faculty News

temporary?” and “Reading Robert Coover” at the &NOW Festival of New Writing in Paris: Université de la Sorbonne, Paris, France. He gave the keynote address “If a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words, Why Is It a Saying?” and a fiction reading at the Word and Image in Contemporary Culture Conference, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia.

An excerpt from **Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi’s** debut novel, *Fra Keeler*, was anthologized in *The &Now Awards*

Keeping up With Alumni

Angela (Williams) Bickham (’98) now lives in Charlotte, NC, with her family - her husband Curtis, her 5 year old son CJ, her 3 year old daughter Alicia and her 2 month old daughter Jasmine. After a long, long silence, the writing bug is starting to buzz around her ear again...

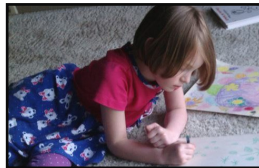
Jackson Bliss (’07) recently finished his PhD in English/Creative Writing at USC where he worked with TC Boyle, Aimee Bender, and Viet Nguyen. After traveling to Ōsaka and Kyoto last year and running in the Rock’n’Roll ½ marathon together, Jackson and his wife, LB, returned to Chicago after living in LA for three years. Jackson has recently published short stories and essays in *The Antioch Review*, *Quarter after Eight*, *Fiction International*, the *Last Night on Earth Anthology*, and the *Kartika Review* (<http://kartikareview.com/?portfolio=issue-15-spring-2013>).

EddieJoe Cherbonny (’11) began a job at The Getty museum in Los Angeles last summer. He’s already had the opportunity to meet amazing people (like the mayor of Rome!) and is busy busy busy.

For **Dawn Comer** (’98), some years are meant for writing. Other years...not so much. This past year was a year of

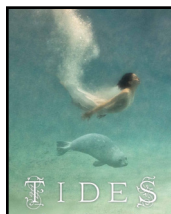


final manuscript edits and waiting, waiting, and still waiting for a bite. In the meantime, Dawn has discovered her daughter Lucy (5) is quite the artist-story-teller, and that her son



Elliot (8) has a passion for musical theater.

Betsy Cornwell (’12) Hopkins Center for Los Angeles campus she met up with won-
EddieJoe Cherbonny



taught at the Johns Talented Youth’s last summer, where derful fellow alums and **Ed Trefts**. Since

II: The Best Innovative Writing. Excerpts from her second manuscript, *The Holy City, Dream & the Traveler*, were published and are forthcoming from: *The Coffin Factory*, *LitMagazine* and *Denver Quarterly*. She was a featured speaker at the 2013 Franklin & Marshall Emerging Writers Festival in Lancaster, PA, and recently received an ISLA grant to conduct research at the Alinari Museum Archives and Library, the Palazzo Vecchio, and the Archivio di Stato di Firenze, in Florence (Italy) this summer.

September, she’s been perpetually extending her stay in Ireland, first working in hostels and now living on a farm with a dreamy horse trainer. She recently co-founded *The Rose & Chestnut* magazine (now accepting submissions) and her short story/translation “The If-Tree” was published in the yellow issue of the *Fairy Tale Review*. Her first novel, *Tides*, published by Clarion/HMH, arrived on May 10.

Renée E. D’Aoust (’06) had a fantastic time reading from her memoir *Body of a Dancer* at Notre Dame this past February—and loved seeing everyone. Thanks for all the support! She’ll be reading in NYC at “Word for Word” in Bryant Park on September 10th. She continues to teach at North Idaho College and Casper College, to write for *Women Owning Woodlands*, and to write a dachshund blog for Tootsie. You can wag with Tootsie at bicontinental-dachshund.blogspot.com/.



Ailbhe Darcy (’11) had her work featured as Poem of The Week by *The Guardian* in September, and, this spring, received a grant from the American Council of Irish Studies to support her PhD dissertation research.

Lisa De Niscia’s (’93) publishing company, Whitepoint Press, is publishing four books this year: one novel, one collection of poems, and two short story collections. One of the story collections is by **Courtney McDermott** (’11) and is called *How They Spend Their Sundays*. It will be available in paperback and as an ebook this fall. Whitepoint Press will be looking for a new batch of manuscripts to consider starting on August 3. Please visit whitepointpress.com for more exciting information.

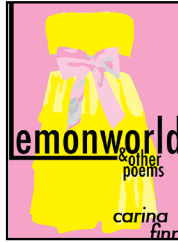
Jeanne De Vita’s (’00) novel *Bullseye* (under the name Annie Anthony) is forthcoming from Musa Publishing in summer 2013.

Jaclyn Dwyer ('09) has had poems published or forthcoming in the following magazines: *Columbia Poetry Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Copper Nickel*, *Phoebe*, and *Poet Lore*. Her poetry collection, *In the Dark Medina* has been named a finalist for the Patricia Bibby First Book Award. She has fiction forthcoming from *Main Street Rag* and *The Pinch*. She is a PhD candidate at Florida State University, where she received a Kingsbury Fellowship. She will be getting married this August in New Orleans to poet Rob Stephens.

David Ewald ('03) recently had a collaborative novella (written with fellow '03 alum **Stuart Ross**) entitled *Markson's Pier* published both in print and online by the literary journal *Essays & Fictions*. He and his wife recently welcomed fraternal twin boys Elliott Carlo Ewald and Gregory James Ewald in early February.



Carina Finn's ('12) first full-length book, *LEMONWORLD & other poems*, came out this spring to launch Co.Im.Press. She's living in New York City, doing PR for the right by day and "breaking <3s by night."



"Esteban (Steve) Galindo ('97) checking in. Still in California. Still working in the Mexican Food business. Still a husband, father, gun owning liberal. Anyone interested in any more can find me on Facebook. Likewise, my twitter handle is @eivgalindo. Thanks."

Chris Gerben ('03) received a Linda Pinder Fellowship at the University of Michigan where he recently received his PhD in both English and Education via a joint program. He now teaches at Stanford University in California, and has had several critical essays published in collections like *Peer Pressure/Peer Power*, *Game of Words*, *Words of Play: Essays on the Terminology of Videogame Theory*, and *Rhetoric/Composition/Play* and he roasts and sells his own coffee.

Stephanie Guerra ('04) sold a young adult urban novel, *Music, Love and Drugs*, to Amazon Children's Publishing in a two-book deal. The first book will be out in spring 2015 and the untitled sequel will be out in fall 2015.

Jarrett Haley ('08) had another baby, Priscilla, in April. *BULL* is rocking, rolling, and kind of killing it. Come be a part at BULLmensfiction.com.

Julia Harris ('96) took a job as a writer and editor at

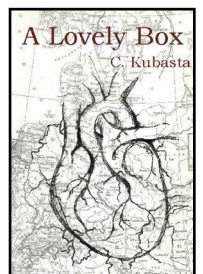
Florida Atlantic University for both the Division of Student Affairs and Division of Research/Graduate School. She also does graphic design, writing, and editing through her company Julia Harris Creates.

Rebecca Hazelton ('05) has had an exciting year! Her second book of poetry, *Vow*, was recently released by Cleveland State Press, while her chapbook, *Bad Star* is forthcoming from Yes Yes Books after winning the 2012 *Vinyl* 45 chapbook contest. Meanwhile, her poem "Book of Desire" was nominated for a Pushcart prize by *Anti-* and her collaborative chapbook, *No Girls No Telephones*, co-authored with Brittany Cavallaro, is forthcoming in 2013 from Black Lawrence Press. She has been featured or interviewed in magazines like *PANK*, *Everyday Genius*, *Sixth Finch*, and the *Gettysburg Review*. Rebecca was also part of the panel "Embracing Echo, Rediscovering the Self: Teaching Strategies of Repetition in the Undergraduate Poetry Workshop" at AWP in Boston this year and read at the "Kraken Eats Boston Alive," *Offending Adam*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *Sixth Finch*, *Vinyl Poetry*, and Cleveland State readings. Way to go Becky!



Lily Hoang ('06) The black and white edition of Lily's fourth book *Unfinished* was released by Jaded Ibis Books. Her anthology *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on the Avant-Garde and Accessibility*, co-edited with Joshua Marie Wilkinson, is forthcoming with Night Boat Books (2015). She published work in places like *Denver Quarterly*, *Bombay Gin*, and *Brooklyn Rail*. She gave readings and guest lectures at Brown University, San Diego State, Cal State San Marcos, University of Maine, Naropa University, Louisiana State University, University of Louisiana Lafayette, and the University of Alabama. Lily will become Editor-in-Chief of *Puerto del Sol* in the fall and continues her editorial work for Tarpaulin Sky. She joined the Editorial Board of Starcherone Books. She also guest edited the Yellow Issue of *Fairy Tale Review*. Additionally: she's rocking the desert, teaching in the MFA program at New Mexico State University.

Christina Kubasta ('03) is Assistant Professor of English, and Department Chair of Culture, Media and Gender Studies at Marian University in Wisconsin. Her first book *A Lovely Box* was out in May from Finishing Line Press: <https://www.>



finishinglinepress.com/product_info.php?cPath=4&products_id=1628&osCsid=sr0rmjs5uqnvqaa2j1b4502tj7. She and John live with a very old cat (still around from the South Bend Days!), and a St. Bernard/Mastiff mix.

Iris Law ('10) writes, "I am still living in Lexington, KY, working in a managing editorial position at the University Press of Kentucky. Last May, I was promoted to a permanent position, and I've been slowly allowed to take on more editorial responsibilities since then. The biggest news of the year for me is that my first chapbook, *Periodicity*, was published by Finishing Line Press in February. I've been invited to read from it at Stanford in May, and will be reading locally in June. Other than that, I don't have much



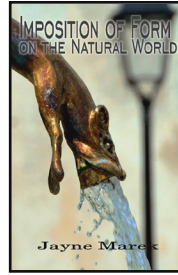
other news to report: I was published and interviewed in *The Collagist*, and *Drunken Boat* ran one of my poems in the 'Open City' special folio that it co-edited with the Asian American Writers' Workshop for its 16th issue. I was also recently published in *Kin*, and an old poem of mine was re-run online by the Museum of Contemporary Craft, as part of the online component of its exhibit on the bowl. My magazine, *Lantern Review*, put out its fifth issue, got a site redesign, and went to the AWP bookfair with me in March; and I've also been on the radio a couple of times to talk about my chapbook. It's been a blessing to have so many opportunities."

Jiyeon Lee ('12) recently won the Joanna Cargill First Book Prize from Coconut Books for her manuscript *Foreigner's Folly: A Tale of Attempted Project*. The book is scheduled to come out this upcoming fall! Jiyeon was also the *Seven Corners* featured poet of the month in August and had her chapbook *IMMA* released by Radioactive Moat Press. Her work has recently appeared in *NAP Magazine* and other journals. Awesome!



Corey Madsen ('04) has been playing throughout the Roaring Fork Valley in Colorado as lead vocalist and guitarist in the rock and blues band Whiskey Tango. He also is at work on a two-man, long-distance, digital music project titled "A Pale Moon Rises," in which he and a Connecticut musician mail, email, & upload various tracks of original home recordings—from bass lines, drums, to vocal harmonies—to complete songs on the album. They so far have 17 finished tracks without ever having recorded in the same room together. Their first album, titled "Copper

& Coal," is set to release later this year and will contain 12 of the tracks.



Jayne Marek ('05) has had two books published this year: *Imposition of Form on the Natural World*, from Finishing Line Press (Louisville, 2013) and *Company of Women: New and Selected Poems*, written with her poetry friends Lylanne Musselman and Mary Sexson in which each provides poems for a chapter of the book (Chatter House Press, 2013). The latter is newly available at <http://chatterhousepress.com/index.html>. Jayne will be part of an NEH summer seminar in Chicago this year titled "Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth-Century Chicago, 1893-1955." Other things rattle along; she continues to run and finished the Chicago Marathon in October 2012... slowly.

Mark Marino ('96) continued to experiment with Twitter this year, running two improv narratives (netprov), one out of reality TV personality @spencerpratt's account (<http://bit.ly/tempspence>) and another involving the fictional activists @occupymla (<http://markmarino.com/omla>). His interactive story "Living Will" (<http://markmarino.com/tales/livingwill.html>) was a finalist for the 2012 New Media Writing Prize. Mark is always looking for playmates for his future netprovs, so contact him.

Tasha Matsumoto's ('10) story "Mathematics for Nymphomanics" was the winner of the 2012 Beacon Street Prize, judged by Michael Kimball, and appeared in *Re-divider*. "The Maritime Vessel Kaleidoship" appeared in *Black Warrior Review*, "Word Counts" appeared in Hobart (Web), her story, "Sores," appeared in *Switchback*, the story "Our Intrepid Exploristas" was published by *The Collagist*. She was a finalist for the 2012 Copper Nickel Fiction Contest and the 2012 DIAGRAM Innovative Fiction Contest, and her essay, "You Can Never Quarantine the Past" is forthcoming in *DIAGRAM*. She teaches at the University of Utah.

Courtney McDermott ('11) is teaching at Tufts University, and presented a paper on creative writing and silence at the NeMLA Conference. Her first collection of short stories will be published by Whitepoint Press later this year. She also writes regular book reviews for *NewPages.com* and *Late Night Library*.

Janet McNally ('05) writes, "I've had a story taken by *Boulevard* recently and poems coming or published in

Crazyhorse, Hayden's Ferry Review, Nimrod, Fairy Tale Review, Ecotone, Mid-American Review and others. I'm still at Canisius College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, though we're hoping the budget will allow for the position to be made permanent. Juno is two, and we brought home twins girls, Daphne Ramona and Luella Maeve McNally-Mank!!) on April 17th.

Monica Mody ('10) has recently had work published in *Northeast Review, The Poetry, Ginosko Literary Journal, Pyrta, Upstairs at Duroc, Lantern Review, and Horse Less Review*. Her poems the *Delhi Sequence* were published in *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry* (Ed. Sudeep Sen, 2012). Monica also had essays published in *The Journal of East-West Psychology Isral and Reality Sandwich* (the latter of which was anthologized in *Occupy Consciousness: Essays on the Global Insurrection*, available at http://www.realitysandwich.com/occupy_consciousness_book). She presented work at the 2nd Annual East-West Psychology Symposium at the Cultural Integration Fellowship in San Francisco and was a featured reader at the Delta Mouth Literary Festival in Baton Rouge, and gave poetry readings at No Thousands Part 1, Boston; the National Law School of India University, Bangalore; C.I.S. Bharat Nivas, Auroville; and The Bard Room at PageTurners Bookstore, Bangalore. What a busy year!

Seth Oelbaum ('12) had his chapbook *macey (triolets)* published by Birds of Lace Press and also had poems published in *PANK* and *Radioactive Moat*.

Melanie Page ('10) began working at Lake Michigan College in Niles, MI, in the fall of 2012, where she teaches Contemporary Fiction, Black Literature of America, and composition. In the editorial world, Melanie worked with author Grant Bailie to revise his forthcoming novel, *Highway Narcissus*, for publication with Black Coffee Press. As the review editor for the online magazine *JMWW*, she reviewed nineteen novels and short story collections in addition to a piece that appeared in the *Notre Dame Review* and another review forthcoming at *Necessary Fiction*. She still writes fiction, though! Melanie had pieces published in *Corium, Necessary Fiction, [alice blue review]*, and *Construction Magazine*. She received the good news that her short short "The Crevices of a Love Story" was accepted for publication in the anthology *Dirty: Dirty*, now available for purchase from Jaded Ibis Press. AWP 2013 was made even sweeter when Melanie did a reading in Boston for the release of the anthology. Forthcoming in *The Platypus Prize: An Anthology of the Best Innovative College Writing 2009-2011* is

"The Mailman Licks the Envelope," which is one of ten pieces that were chosen for publication. For links, check out melaniepage.weebly.com. Hubby, Nick Page, is doing fantastic; thanks for asking!

Rumit Pancholi ('08) was accepted by the Kundiman Poetry Retreat and will be a Kundiman Fellow in 2013. He is circulating new work out into the world and hoping to hear it echo back.



Krista Quinby ('03) writes, "I'm up to two kids, now, so I'm officially qualified to start telling other people how to parent. They gave me my mommy-blogger kit at the hospital, after hypno-birthing out the distractingly well-mannered Miss Josephine, but it took me a few months to get on board. Now, aside from paying gigs writing marketing copy and video scripts, my writtens can be found at www.milkandwhiskey.com. It's part blog and part web-comic, so even the functionally illiterate can find something to enjoy!"

Stuart Ross ('03) won the Non-Fiction category of the 2013 Summer Literary Seminars Unified Literary Contest, judged by Ander Monson. His work will be published in *DIAGRAM* and he will have the opportunity to attend any one of SLS's 2013 Summer Programs. He has also recently had writing published in *The Awl, HTML Giant*, and a collaborative novella, *Markson's Pier*, written with **David Ewald**, published in *Essays & Fictions*. Congratulations on all counts, Stuart!

Shero (Sheheryar Sheikh '07) transitioned successfully out of corporate slavery in 2011, became a whirling dervish with the London Whirling Ensemble, completed the Brighton Marathon on a sprained ankle, and teaches rhetoric to freshmen at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. He published one booklength, boring-as-hell manual on Executive CV Writing at the corporate job, and is now ghostwriting the memoirs of a leading industrialist and philanthropist of Pakistan. He plans to visit the ND lakes within 2013, Godwilling.

Lindsay Starck ('10) recently got engaged to beau Christopher Elias. Congratulations, Lindsay!

Jennie Stockdale ('11) has poems forthcoming in *1913: A Journal of Forms*, has had a poem published in *Jubilat*, and an essay in *Action, Yes*.

Marcela Sulak ('92) has published a book-length trans-

lation of Czech folk stories in verse. It is one of three of the Czech “Greats” upon which Czech literature is founded: K. J. Erben, *A Bouquet of Czech Folk Tales* (Twisted Spoon Press, Dec. 2012 <http://www.twistedspoon.com/bouquet.html>). Her essay, “Getting a Get” was runner up in the 2012 Iowa Review Nonfiction Competition and appeared in *The Iowa Review*’s winter 2012 issue. Her correspondence with the Palestinian poet Tala Rahmeh, “The Best Almond Cake I Ever Made,” written under attack, appears in the *Los Angeles Review of Books: The Gaza Roundtable*: <http://lareviewofbooks.org/article.php?id=1205&fulltext=1>. She directs the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University and lives with her six year old daughter and their two-month old dwarf hamsters in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Amanda Utzman (’12) writes, “It’s been a busy year! I’ve continued my work at both the Los Angeles Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (IRIS) Center teaching ESL to Iranian refugees, and at USC, where I’ve taken a position as a writing instructor strictly for the Masters of Social Work program. A couple of my poems are set to appear in the Spring 2013 issue of the *Day Old Roses* literary journal, and a number of my photos have recently

Emerti Faculty Check-in

John Matthias: Shearsman has just finished the three-year project of publishing John Matthias’s Collected Poems in the following volumes: *Collected Shorter Poems, vol. 1*; *Collected Shorter Poems, vol. 2*; *Collected Longer Poems*. John has also published poetry and fiction this year in *Boulevard*, *Salmagundi*, *Parnassus*, and *The Common*. He will be giving readings this summer from London, Cambridge, and at the Aldeburgh Music Festival.

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been featured by the *Wings and Wild* photography community and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Other than that, life as usual!”

James Matthew Wilson (’05) continues to teach in the Humanities Department at Villanova, where the last year brought many happy developments. The family settled in the village of Berwyn in September, buying a big white house just in time for Thomas Avery, their third child, to be born. During the summer, James’ second book, *Timothy Steele: A Critical Introduction* (Story Line Press) appeared, and he recently learned that his second chapbook, *The Violent and Abyssal* will appear later this year from Finishing Line Press. With a house to paint and diapers to change, he wrote less this year, but he continues to publish poems and essays at the usual slightly-less-than-satisfactory pace.

Christina Yu (’08) is a Marketing Manager at Knewton, a rapidly expanding tech startup in NYC that uses machine learning and data science to provide continuously personalized learning to students in real-time. In her free time, despite 50 hour work weeks and late-nights in the office, she continues to write and publish fiction.

Re:Visions

Volume 11 exists because of the hard work of editors (and often more) **Margaret Emma Brandl, Mari Christmas, Leo Costigan, Emily Greci, Drew Kalbach, Christine Texeira, and Kaushik Viswanath**, Assistant Editors **Jacqueline Cassidy** and **Brittany Davis**, layout guru **Christine Texeira**, and cover artwork from **Shelby Grubs**, as well as inside front and back cover art by the mysterious **Evan Bryson**.



Thanks also to all who contributed their amazing work with this issue!

ANNOUNCING THE NOTRE DAME REVIEW BOOK PRIZE

The Notre Dame Review Book Prize is a first volume prize, awarded to an author who has published fiction (or poetry) in the *Notre Dame Review*. Established in 2013 by the *NDR*, in conjunction with the Notre Dame Press, the prize is to honor both accomplished and emerging authors who have yet to publish a volume of stories (or a collection of poetry). Besides publication, the author is awarded a \$1000 prize. The judge is the Editor of the *Review*, currently William O'Rourke, in conjunction with the Press; the prize will be awarded when warranted. There are no entry requirements other than previous publication in the *Notre Dame Review*.

The inaugural winner of the Notre Dame Review Book Prize is

James D. Redwood,

his collection of short stories, *Love Beneath the Napalm*,
will be published in the fall of 2013.

James D. Redwood graduated from Oberlin College in 1971 and went to Saigon, South Viet Nam, in September 1972, to teach English. After the fall of Saigon in April, 1975, Redwood attended law school and joined the faculty of Albany Law School in Albany, New York in the fall of 1989, where he continues to teach. He began publishing stories in 1993 based on his experiences in Viet Nam, appearing in Virginia Quarterly Review, Black Warrior Review, Kenyon Review, North Dakota Quarterly, TriQuarterly, and the Notre Dame Review.

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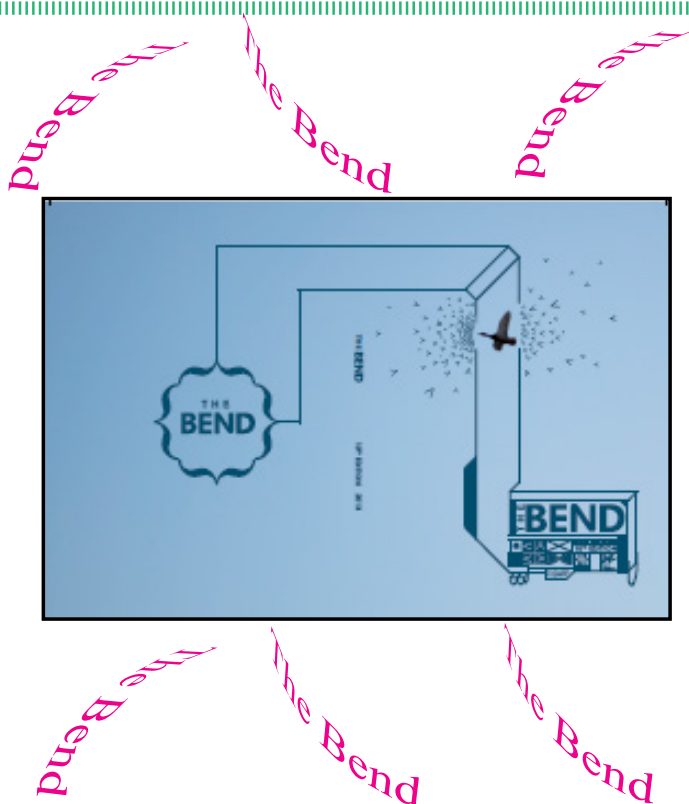
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Notre Dame, IN 46556

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The Bend

The 10th edition of *The Bend* features work from current and former ND CW MFAs (so many letters!) and friends including but not limited to **Mike Smith, Amy Irish, C. Kubasta, Marcela Sulak, Mary Marie Dixon, Desmond Kon, Donal Gordon, Monica Mody, Jayne Marek, Shaun Dillon, Sarah Bowman, Amy de Betta, Dawn M. Comer, Matthew Benedict, Michael Collins**, and many current students as well!

This issue was made possible by its wonderful editorial staff, **Meg Brandl, Mari Christmas, Leo Costigan, Emily Grecki, Christine Texeira, Peter Twal, and Kaushik Viswanath. Alireza Taheri Araghi** provided the beautiful cover artwork, while **Christine Texeira** and **Emily Grecki** tag-teamed the layout.



POETRY

Paul Cunningham
Slippery Rock University, BA

Jonathan Diaz
Biola College, BA

Suzanne Garcia
University of Arkansas, BA

Julia Harris
Saint Mary's College, BA

Rachel Zavec
Louisiana State University, BA

MATRICATION

FICTION

Jace Brittain
University of Southern California, BA

Thirli Myint
Brown University, BA

Jessica Newman
Brown University, BA

Sarah Roth
Washington University, BA

Terrance Travis
Louisiana State University, BA

Dev Varma
Rhodes College, BA

Notre Dame Review

Issue 34

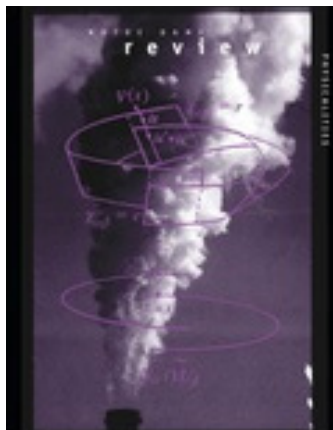
"Memories and Memories," featured work from Mark Brazaitis, Amina Gautier, Harry Mark Petrakis, and Judith Moffett. Additionally, Act II of Alfred Corn's *Lowell's Bedlam* and poetry by David Gordon, Esve Coemish, John Kinsella, and John Latta, just to name a few.



Notre Dame Review

Issue 35

"Physicalities," is now available and features work from fiction and nonfiction by R.D. Skillings, Jay Neugeboren, Gloria Whelan, and Sondra Spatt Olsen, among others. NDR 35 also features an art installment by Jean Dibble. Readers will enjoy poetry by David Wagoner, Mike Smith, Liz Robbins, Patricia Corbus, and more!



CONGRATULATIONS!

to winner of the
2013 Mitchell and
2013 Samuel Hazo Awards,

Lauro Vazquez

The Mitchell Award is awarded to one (or two) MFA second year student(s) for their distinguished achievement and contributions during residency to the MFA Creative Writing Program.

Sam Hazo Award for Poetry, started in 2013, is given to a student, selected unanimously by the faculty, based upon thesis, class performance and contribution to the creative writing community and the MFA program, as well as how well the recipient's work reflects Hazo's humanistic aesthetic/ideals and commitment to the poetic craft. Thanks especially to **Sam Hazo** for his generous donation of this award.

Special Events to Remember

On April 18th, the MFA Creative Writing Program joined forces with the Department of English, The College of the First Year of Studies, and the Department of Africana Studies to host the Inaugural Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam! hosted by and performed in the Snite Museum Atrium. Here's the dirt on this amazing event that brought over 140 people together in celebration of slam poetry!

Guests arrived and began by eating and imbibing, chatting about and practicing for the poetry slam at hand. MC'd by **Peter Twal** and **Marc Drake**, the event started with 5 judges from the Notre Dame and South Bend community in position to listen and score.

Our brave first participant wowed the audience, and a pattern of passionate poetry with strong performance developed and maintained throughout the night. A variety of participants in gender, age and location graced the stage in rapid and pleasing succession. Poems emerged about love, loss, diaspora, the economy and the responsibility of the writer. With only a few stumbles, followed by genuine encouragement and support from the audience, the participants cheered each other and jeered the occasional slip from a judge. Our final winner showcased a deeply personal poem of abuse and recovery, a poem which everyone felt was performed with real heart and real poetic skills. It was, totally, a really good time.



Poets Poets Everywhere!



We hosted the Borderlands Project reading series on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 with Indiana Poet Laureate Karen Kovacik who had planned a series of four readings on each of the statelines called the Borderlands Project. The readings aimed to bring together Indiana poets with writers from neighboring states to share poems about immigration, migration, borders, and home.

Kovacik, also a professor of English at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, said, "Immigrants and migrants have had a profound effect not only on American history but on our literature. Think of Emma Lazarus' poem on the base of the Statue of Liberty, Langston Hughes' 'Let America Be America Again,' or Rita Dove's Pulitzer Prize-winning sequence Thomas and Beulah about the Northern Migration of her African-American grandparents."

This event was the Northern portion of the series, featuring Hoosier and Michigan poets. The western reading will occur at the Swopes Gallery in Terre Haute on November 1, 2013. An eastern reading is in the works, but no date has been selected yet. Further details will be announced.

The following authors read or were represented:

Francisco Aragón, Nancy Botkin, Curtis L. Crisler, Jacqueline Dickey, Gail Griffin, John D. Groppe, Elizabeth Kerlikowske, Karen Kovacik, David Dodd Lee, Kimberly, Renith-Joy Licorish, Orlando Ricardo Menes, Susan Blackwell Ramsey, Kirk Robinson, Diane Seuss, and Mary Sexson.