

SO IT GOES...

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



Number 16
Summer 2014

A Letter from Director

This is my final year as Director of Creative Writing, and thus I want to express my indebtedness and admiration for **Coleen Hoover**, who so generously and selflessly gave me guidance, support, and some necessary chiding during these three years of my tenure. She is our guiding light, and we are fortunate to have her as our co-captain. I also wish to express my gratitude to all those MFA students who have worked in the office. You all made my days in the office joyfully productive: **Dev Varma, Suzi Garcia, Julia Harris, Christine Teixeira, Alice Ladrick, and Amanda Utzman.**



Thanks,
Orlando Menes

VISITING WRITERS 2013-2014

This year brought us a star-studded lineup of visiting writers who graced packed audiences in Hammes Bookstore and the Eck Center Auditorium with their well-crafted strings of words.



To kick off the year, **Daniel Tobin** read from his collections *Belated Heavens* and *The Net* (forthcoming) as a late September day fell into night in a high gothic window at Hammes Bookstore. Tobin has published six collections of poetry and has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Rachel Blau DuPlessis visited us in October and read from the completion of her long poem series *Drafts* as well as from a new work structured around the fascinating attempt to write letters to each letter of the alphabet. While much of DuPlessis' critical study fixates on feminism and the poets of Modernism, her poetry maintains a dual erudition and playfulness. She is a Professor of English at Temple University.



Orlando Menes didn't have to travel far for his reading in November at Hammes Bookstore. Menes's *Fetish*, a collection of poems that travel from Notre Dame to Cuba and back again, won the 2012 *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize in Poetry. His poems situate themselves squarely in the humanist tradition and contain the mesmerizing soft-hued lines of stained-glass window-light.



Only a couple weeks after Menes's reading, author **Laird Hunt** read from his recent novel, *Kind One*, which was a finalist for the 2013 Pen/Faulkner Award. Currently on faculty in the University of Denver's Creative Writing Program, he also edits the *Denver Quarterly*.



Our first reading of the Spring semester was a celebration of the work of Professor **Valerie Sayers**. Five of her novels, which focus on characters in the fictional town of Due East, South Carolina, were re-released in a uniform paperback series by Northwestern University Press. Sayers read selections from *Due East* and *Brain Fever* to a packed house at Hammes Campus Bookstore. The segments Sayers read follow Mary Faith Rapple as she weathers the sternness of a father who won't believe she's pregnant and then pick up on her conversation with her soon-to-be husband, an adjunct philosophy professor named Tim Rooney, as they discuss U.S. intervention in Bosnia. Both sections displayed Sayers' remarkable ability to make sentences sing and characters come alive. Sayers comfortably inhabits the voices of an ironfisted, conservative patriarch; an innocent girl; and a mentally frayed philosopher. What's more, her prose creates a kind of soft symphony with the subtle cadences of a Southern drawl and the spirit of social awareness.



In the first week of February, we welcomed the inaugural winner of the *Notre Dame Review* Book Prize, **James Redwood**, who read from his winning collection of short stories, *Love Beneath the Napalm*, in the warm Eck Center Auditorium. **William O'Rourke**, editor of the *Notre Dame Review*, remarked that the stories in *Love Beneath the Napalm*, which treat the American intervention in Vietnam from multiple perspectives, are necessary stories not only because of the grace with which they were constructed but because of the need for a cross-generational meditation on the Vietnam War. Redwood read "Brother Daniel's Roses," a story that highlights the complex interweaving of familial, cultural, and political conflicts endemic to the war.

In the second week of February, poet **Manuel Paul Lopez** read from *The Yearning Feed*, winner of the 2013 Ernest Sandeen Poetry Prize. As Joyelle McSweeney described in her introduction, Lopez's poems have a remarkable multidimensional kind of range. His poems can go wide, spanning the distance between southern California, Arizona, and Italy. But his poems can also burrow deep in a single moment. On top of all of this, Lopez's poems can hit high notes of humor through characters like a father concerned about his son's reading habits as well as low baritone tones of solemnness through the image of a fence.



In the middle of February, **Lauro Vazquez**, winner of the Sparks Fellowship, read from assorted new poems that ranged from an ode to the pretzel on which President George W. Bush

VISITING WRITERS 2013-2014 CONT...

choked to various heroes of 19th century labor movements to victims of colonialism to the very usefulness of poetry as an inciting form. Vazquez's poetry is informed both by place and by history and often acts as a process of empathetic imagination with figures of the past, whether martyrs or villains or pretzels.



Through the work of **Joyelle McSweeney**, we were able to bring in the electrifying Black Took Collective from March 18-20th

to create for the community a brand-new work. BTC used multimedia elements and took advantage of the Digital Visualization Theater to create a work of multiplicity and polyvocality. They used music, improv, video, and their bodies to push the boundaries of poetry and defy stereotypes in their commentary on identity.

The Second Annual **Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam!**

had us filling the atrium of the Snite Museum with bodies, poems, and the musical stylings of DJ Splenda. Building on the success of last year's event, we had nearly 270 people in attendance. Slammers came from all walks of life, everywhere between a 12-year old and a lawyer, and they performed poems grappling with a range of subjects—everything from gender and sexuality to sweatshops to insatiability to growing up. It's common practice at slams for audience members to snap when they hear lines that enthrall them. This year had our fingers numb from so much snapping. Special thanks goes to the Snite Museum's Curator of Education, Academic Programs, Bridget Hoyt, Marc Drake, the SpokenWordND club co-president who MC'ed and especially, **Coleen Hoover**, who helped organize the event.



MFA READING SERIES 2013-2014

In the days of yore, public houses ("pubs") were spaces of wild energy filled with tingling discussions amongst people of various backgrounds voicing their views to each other about the big facets of human existence -- politics, religion, aesthetics. In the "pub spirit" our fall student reading series found a new home at O'Rourke's Public House (no relation to William O'Rourke).

In mid-October, **Jenica Moore**, **Alice Ladrack**, and **Kaushik Viswanath** read from their latest creative projects. Each reader vocalized au natural, without a microphone, giving the whole event a seedy, subversive feel. Each of the readers had a special way of toggling the room's energy and prickling our little grey cells.

The second episode of the 2013 Fall MFA Student Reading Series found us again at O'Rourke's Public House. But things were different. There was a microphone, and it allowed us all to hear and fall under the narrative spells of **Mari Christmas**, **Leo Costigan**, and **Emily Grecki**, who displayed the grit, humor, uncanny honesty, and pathos that makes their work so enthralling.



Author **David Matlin** visited us on a sunny yet chilly evening on March 26th, and read from his latest collection of short stories, entitled, *Up Fish Creek Road and Other Stories*. Matlin's prose is hypnotic and symphonic, with sentences that drift one slowly into the scenes and settings and mindsets of the characters his work portrays—American heroes mired in American tragedies. Deeply committed to long-form short stories, Matlin was able to read only a small portion of the first story from *Up Fish Creek Road*, but what he read surely left the audience in awe.

This April, we were graced with the wit and wisdom of **Margaret Atwood**, who received the university's prestigious Yusko Ward-Phillips lectureship. Atwood's reputation as a writer and thinker of immense depth who can also strike chords in contemporary readers drew a packed crowd for her lecture, "We Are What We Tell: Stories as Human." Her lecture, full of quips and hilarious wit, focused on the evolutionary and cultural necessity of storytelling. From this, she moved on to some hard and fast tips for writers, tips such as: include some naked people, try adding cannibalism, make sure there's a sense of mystery. These tips as well as their foundation in her answers to the large question of storytelling's necessity showed that Atwood has the uncanny ability to both entertain us and get us to entertain considerations about the human condition with all of its innate humor, sadness, mystery, and nudity.



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The third and final installment of the Fall MFA Reading series found us again at O'Rourke's Public House with four wonderful readers—three poets and one fiction writer. The room brimmed with bodies and excited ears as **Jayme Russell's** poetry exploded our sense of time, space, and culture. Then, **Lynda Letona** read a series of poems detailing the brutal Spanish conquest of the Maya revealing to us not only the gore of colonialism and empire but a sense of personal injustice mired within a larger history. **Christine Texeira** read from her adaptation of the Molly Bloom section of *Ulysses* to the romantic longing of an astrophysicist. But it wasn't all flowers and heartache because Christine showed us her talent for infusing subtle notes of humor when we least expect it. Rounding out the night, **Peter Twal** read from his poetry collection *Airplane Mode*, which marries a sense of brooding and longing to the jargon of contemporary twenty-somethings.

MFA READING SERIES 2013-2014 CONT...

On the unofficial (but now official) reading schedule was the Second Annual Erotic Flash Fiction Contest, organized by **Leo Costigan**. The idea for the contest arrived during the long car ride from South Bend to the east coast last year for Christmas break, mostly from one **Emily Grecki**. Entrants submitted works of 300 to 500 words of erotic flash fiction and were judged blindly by Leo's brother and a few of his friends. In early February, an awards ceremony and reading took place at Leo and **Peter Twal**'s spacious apartment. The night was quite a romp, hedonistic to say the least, and much fun was had by all. For next year, the reins were handed to **Garret Travis**, whose zeal for erotic flash fiction has yet to meet an upper bound.



For the Spring student reading series, which consists solely of first year students, the program decided to move out a bit deeper into the South Bend community. The readings were held at The Pool, located within the Central High Apartment complex. As the name suggests, the venue is the old pool in the former Central High School. It's a cozy space with acoustics made for the intimacy of MFA student readings.

The first of the first year student readings kicked off the Spring series in style. A slightly sick **Jace Brittain** braved the elements and read a short story about underwater sound experiments gone dreadfully awry. His piece displayed his willingness to stretch language's aural capacity as well as his playfulness with the notion of the literary canon. **Suzi Garcia**'s poetry had us giggling and pondering at the same time. She read pieces that combined contemporary vernacular with interrogations of identity politics, with a final sing-along to Carly Rae Jepson's "Call Me Maybe" to boot. The night ended with us wondering about the underground surveillance agency that was the focus of **Garret Travis**'s reading. Wowing us not only with his words, he played on loop for us an entrancing multimedia component to his novel-in-progress.

Our second reading in the Spring Student Reading series was our final reading at The Pool, and it was a blast. We started with two poets who dazzled us with poems from their current works in progress. **Jonathan Diaz** read a selection of poems from a collection that follows Diana the Hunter of Bus Drivers, a vigilante who has been murdering bus drivers in Juarez, Mexico as retaliation against bus drivers who have raped vulnerable women. As his subject suggests, Jonathan's poems were chilling and sobering accounts and explorations of the borderlands between morality and immorality that is retaliatory violence. From Jonathan, we moved on to **Julia Harris**, who read from her collection *Dodge and Burn*. Her collection is named after a certain technique used in developing photography. This comes through in the high definition images her poetry employs, images that she dips in the enthralling notions of female embodiment, sexual violence, and trauma. **Thirii Myint**'s reading was both personal and mystical, since she gave out a number of hand-decorated letters that corresponded to the piece she read, entitled "Sea Monster"—a tale about a miscarriage that reads like a frustrated fable. **Sarah Roth**

ended the night on a magical note, reading from a piece called "Gypsyland" that follows the lives of performers in a magical circus act in a voice that is at once playful, serious, naïve, and knowing.

Our final reading in the Spring MFA Reading Series took place at the Crossroads Gallery for Contemporary Art. The gallery was a beautiful space for a wow-filled reading that included performances from two poets and two fiction writers. **Paul Cunningham** read from poems curated from advertising material dating back from the 1950's through to contemporary times. These poems had the audience at one moment laughing and at another questioning our media's history—its representations of ideals, of women, of families, of masculinity. **Jessie Newman** read a few short pieces of fiction, each of which tangled us in the conjunctions of language, the mystical, and the visceral. **Dev Varma** followed, reading from a metafictional novella-in-progress and two shorter pieces from *Some People Claim Some People Believe*, which treat essay prompts from the GRE as prompts for short fiction. Rounding out the night, **Rachel Zavec** read from her collection-in-progress, *Rat King*, which is set in an apocalyptic world where Jesus has come back as a robot, and a giant formation of rats have formed a sentient, powerful being. Her reading also included a staged performance of one of the more play-like sections of the collection. To be sure, it was a chilling, grotesque, and hilarious performance.

Rounding out a splendid year of creativity, we celebrated the creative accomplishments of our graduating class with a final MFA Thesis Reading at the Philbin Studio Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Nine members of the class of 2014 read for five minutes. **Kaushik Viswanath** read a section from his novel-in-progress, *To Stop Train Pull Chain*. **Peter Twal** read a selection of sonnets he's been working on, each prompted by a lyric from an LCD Soundsystem song. **Christine Teixeira** read a short section from her thesis, giving us an entertaining description from the days in which her protagonist works at a scientific research lab. **Alireza Taheri Araghi** read a short, hilarious piece called "The Sheep." Then, **Jayme Russell** read from her long poem about the film *Labyrinth* and David Bowie, called "As the World Falls Down." After a short intermission full of sweets and mingling, **Lynda Letona** floored us with a series of prose poems about the colonization of Central America and an undocumented student, Lucia. **Alice Ladrack** read selections from her thesis, *Autobitchography*, and selections from a mashup project working with Old English and Stein's *Tender Buttons*. **Emily Grecki** read from her short story, "Angel Grenades." **Leo Costigan** read a short piece, "Birthday," about a tragi-comic sexual encounter in a nursing home. To finish the night, **Mari Christmas** read from a collection of short-shorts entitled "Ten Love Stories." The event was the perfect cherry on top of an incredible year.

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OUR BUSY STUDENTS

Alireza Taheri Araghi's fiction appeared in *Green Mountains Review*, *Avatar Review*, and *Gloom Cupboard*. His translations into English have been published in *Asymptote* and *RHINO*. He won the 2014 *RHINO* Translation Prize. He edits the online journal *PARAGRAPHITI*.

Mari Christmas won the 2013 *Black Warrior Review* Fiction Prize, was published in the second issue of *Canary Press*, and served as facilitator for A Time To Write, a morning-long informal writing workshop in February where victims of violence (both experienced and inexperienced writers alike) were given a safe space to reflect on the nature of violence, ways to prevent it, and ways to build a more humane society. **Jace Brittain** and **Julia Harris** led workshops as well. Mari was also accepted to the Ph.D. in Creative Writing at SUNY Albany, where she will be continuing her studies this fall.

Leo Costigan won the 2013 Discovered Voices Competition. His story, "An Account of the Cold," was featured in the April issue of *Iron Horse Literary Review*.

Emily Grecki won this year's Sparks Prize, which was judged by Amina Gautier, whose short story collection, *At-Risk*, won the Flannery O'Connor Award. Emily was also nominated this year for the AWP Intro Journals Award.

Alice Ladrick participated in the Ineluctable series at Microlights in Milwaukee and the Peabody Presents series in Oxford, OH and was nominated for the 2014 AWP Intro Award by the Notre Dame creative writing program. Her poems are forthcoming from *Vector* and *Word Riot*, and she was nominated by *Vector* for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry.

Lynda Letona received the American Dream Summer Grant from the University of Notre Dame and garnered Honorary Mention in *Liternational's* The Kristen Iversen and David Durham Award for her nonfiction piece "My Body is a Cage."

Jayme Russell won the Kaneb Graduate Teaching Award for the 2013-2014 school year. Jayme was a finalist for the 2013 *Black Warrior Review* Poetry Prize.

Excerpts from her long poem "As the World Falls Down" were published in *Black Warrior Review* and *PANK*.

Christine Texeira completed the Sparks Summer Internship and taught two Introductory Creative Writing courses at Notre Dame. She worked with the Kaneb Center to gain certificates in teaching and teaching with technology. Christine also worked tirelessly as the managing editor for both *Re:Visions* and *The Bend*. Along with Jayme Russell, **Peter Twal** and **Kaushik Viswanath** she judged the Fischhoff Center's Creative Writing Contest for local area third graders.

Peter Twal has had work from his thesis, *Airplane Mode*, published in *Bat City Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *NAP*, and elsewhere. He was also nominated for a scholarship to attend the 2014 Juniper Summer Writing Institute.

Kaushik Viswanath had fiction published in *Pithead Chapel*, *PARAGRAPHITI*, and *The Pinch*. He was also named to the Long List for Creative Writing Toto Awards by Toto Funds the Arts.

Jace Brittain participated in the 2014 Spring MFA Reading Series, hosted his very own show on Notre Dame's radio station, and helped edit both *Re:Visions* and *The Bend*.

Paul Cunningham participated in the 2014 MFA Spring Reading Series. His latest creative work has appeared in *LIT* and *fault's* HUE edition. More of his work is forthcoming in *LEFT*, *Minarets*, and *Similar::Peaks*.

Jonathan Diaz participated in the 2014 MFA Spring Reading Series and was nominated for the 2014 AWP Intro Award by the Notre Dame creative writing program.

Suzi Garcia was nominated for a scholarship for the 2014 Juniper Writing Conference by the Notre Dame creative writing program. This year, her poems have appeared in or are forthcoming from *Yalobusha Review*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *WORD RIOT*, *likewise folio*, *NAP LOG II*, *The Dirty Napkin*, *The Pinch*, and *Barely South*. She also participated in the 2014 MFA Spring MFA Reading Series

Julia Harris participated in the 2014 MFA Spring Reading Series.

Thirii Myint's story, "Sea Monster" was published in *Caketrain*. She participated in the 2014 MFA Spring Reading Series and received a Sparks Summer Internship from Hachette Book Group: Grand Central Publishing. She will spend this summer in New York.

Sarah Roth and **Dev Varma** began volunteering time at the Robinson Community Learning Center, leading creative writing workshops with South Bend-area children of various ages.

Sarah participated in the MFA Spring Reading Series and was a reader for both *Re:Visions* and *Notre Dame Review*. Winner of the "2014 Summer Graduate Research Assistant Competition" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Sarah will be a graduate research assistant on the "Documenting Life and Destruction" archival team and an editor for the Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945 at the USHMM this summer.

Dev also participated in the MFA Spring Reading Series and was nominated for a scholarship to attend the 2014 Juniper Writing Conference by the Notre Dame creative writing program. This year, his short story, "L.A.M.E." was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in fiction by *mikrokosmos*.

Rachel Zavec received a Sparks Summer Internship with Park Literary Group and will spend the summer in New York. This year she has also served as a reader for *The Bend* and a reader/Party Planner for *ReVisions*.

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

Program Director:
Orlando Menes

Editors:
Dev Varma, the voice
Coleen J. Hoover, the mechanic

ANNUAL STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Samuel and Mary Anne Hazo Award for Poetry: Peter Twal

William Mitchell Award: Christine Texiera

Nicholas Sparks Prize: Emily Grecki

Congratulations!

AWP REPORT

Seattle is pretty much the perfect place for AWP. It provides relief from the brutal cold of the Midwest, and offers beautiful views and fantastic seafood. But more than that, AWP Seattle was an amazing place for fellowship this year. Whether it was at any one of the panels or readings by our esteemed professors, alumni, and award winners, or at the ND table in the bookfair, or just out for some tasty seafood and famous Seattle coffee, AWP was a chance to recontextualize our relationships, bond with fellow writers, and even meet a few people. This year's AWP was lively, creative, and carefree—the fresh air coming off the Elliott Bay did us all some good.

FACULTY NEWS

Last summer **Johannes Goransson** participated in a symposium on poetry and cultural identity in Bucharest, Romania, together with Vanessa Place and a number of Romanian poets. For his sabbatical in the fall, he traveled to Sweden, where he finished his next book, *The Sugar Book*, which is due out later this year, and gave several readings. In December he returned to Sweden to read in the Stockholm International Poetry Festival with **Joyelle McSweeney**, Lara Glenum, Korean poet Kim Yideum and Swedish poet Aase Berg. In connection with that event, he helped put together a special issue of the central Swedish journal *10 tal* devoted to an international view of gurlisque poetry (including poets from Korea, Mexico, Sweden and the US).

The highlight of **Joyelle McSweeney's** year came early in the year—her play, “Dead Youth, or, the Leaks”, was chosen to inaugurate the Leslie Scalapino Prize for Innovative Women Playwrights. It was performed in October by Fiona



FACULTY NEWS CONT...

Templeton's theatre troupe, the Relationship, in New York City, and will be published next Fall by Litmus Press. She was delighted by the pleasure the actors took in performing this farcey, eco-cyber take on *The Tempest*, involving Henrietta Lacks, Julian Assange, the teen Somali pirate Abduwali Muse, a female Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and a plural character called 'Dead Youth'. The rest of the year was taken up with teaching; publishing works by Mexican, Korean, US, and US-Brazilian authors with Action Books; travelling to Stockholm to perform in the Stockholm Poetry Festival; and helping her and **Johannes's** two young daughters survive a winter so outrageously replete with snow days!

Orlando Ricardo Menes's poem “St. Mena, Gardener of Metals” appeared in *Prairie Schooner* [University of Nebraska at Lincoln], volume 88, number 1 (Spring 2014), page 109. His “Village of the Water People” (later collected in *Fetish*) won the 2013 Daily News Prize for Poetry, *The Caribbean Writer*, Volume 26 (2012), University of the Virgin Islands. His “Zvi Mendel” (first published in *The Malahat Review* [University of Victoria] and later collected in *Fetish*) was chosen as the poem of the day for August 28, 2013, by Poetry Daily at www.poems.com. He was interviewed by Daniel Olivias for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* at lareviewofbooks.org on September 24, 2013, as well as by Scott Winter for *Air Schooner*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, on April 9, 2014. In addition, he gave several poetry readings and presentations throughout the country: a reading for the 2014 *Prairie Schooner Book Prize Celebration*, International Quilt Study Center and Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, on April 9,

FACULTY NEWS CONT...

2014; a reading and panel discussion for “Nuestras Raíces: Duty, Submission, and the Ecstatic” at the Tucson Book Festival, University of Arizona, Tucson, on March 16, 2014; a reading for the Miami Book Fair International at Miami-Dade College on November 23, 2013; a reading at the Poetry Foundation, Chicago, on October 24, 2013; a reading for the Rufus and Louise Reiberg Reading Series at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on October 17, 2013; and finally he participated in a panel discussion, “Literary Magazine Editors Roundtable: Publishing Poetry in Translation” for the American Literary Translators Association 34th Annual Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, on October 18, 2013.

This year **William O'Rourke** moderated and participated in his panel “Navigating the Other '60s: The Publishing World and the Post-Sixty Writer,” at the AWP in Seattle, WA, March 1; he also joined a post-showing discussion after the documentary *Hit & Stay: A History of Faith and Resistance*, at the Browning Cinema, in DPAC, on March 6. And his article on the “Oak Ridge 3,” was posted twice on Greg Mitchell's blog at [The Nation](#), the second time February 19th.

Valerie Sayers continued to celebrate publication of *The Powers* and the reissue of five novels--*Due East*, *How I Got Him Back*, *Who Do You Love*, *The Distance Between Us*, and *Brain Fever*-- with appearances in Chicago, New York, Annapolis, low country South Carolina, Milwaukee and Notre Dame, but she especially appreciated being hosted by **Mark Behr '98** at Rhodes College in Memphis, and **Tom Coyne '99** at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. Her favorite non-appearance was at the AWP in Seattle: after two flights cancellations, her paper “A Sixties List” was channeled by the magnificent Susan Ramsey. She published short stories set in the near future in the *Chicago Tribune's Printers Row Journal* and *Commonweal*, and continued to review books for the *Washington Post*. After a three-year stint as Chair of the English Department, she is delighted to return full-time to teaching and the CWP.

Steve Tomasula's novel *VAS: An Opera in Flatland* was translated into French as *Ligatura: un Opéra en Pays-Plat*. An-

FACULTY NEWS CONT...

ne-Laure Tissut trans. A new edition of his novel [TOC: A New-Media Novel](#) was released as an app for iPad. He published the following short fiction: "from IN & OZ" in *The Knife Sharpener Or On Interaction of Literature, Music, and the Art / Ostrzyciel noży czyli o wzajemnych związkach sztuk pięknych*. Jerzy Kossek trans. (Poland); "iSpace: from My America" in *The Sonora Review* (nominated for a Pushcart Award). He published the following essays: "Art and the Aesthetics of Biology" in *Art and Synthetic Biology*, Annick Bureau and Roger Malina eds. Leonardo E-Books/MIT Press; and "Visualization, Scale, and the Emergence of Posthuman Narrative" in *Sillages critiques: Exposition / Surexposition*. Monica Michlin and Fraçoise Samarcelli eds. Université Paris-Sorbonne (France). He gave readings from his fiction at the following venues: "TOC," Counterpath Bookstore Reading Series, Denver; "TOC," Society of Literature, Science and Art Annual Conference at University of Notre Dame, Digital Visualization Theater. "From IN & OZ," Seminary Co-op Bookstore, University of Chicago. "Medieval Times" reading to seminar on Steve Tomasula, 'Journée spéciale Steve Tomasula,' at Université de Paris 13, Paris, France. He gave the following invited lectures: "Our Tools Make Us (Post)Human" address to seminar on Steve Tomasula, 'Journée spéciale Steve Tomasula,' at Université de Paris 13, Paris; "Conceptualism(s)" address to Seminar on Steve Tomasula at Université de Paris 8, Vincennes-Saint-Denis. Paris; "East Meets West: Samizdat vs. 'BIC Cristal For Her Ballpoint Pens,'" Newberry Library/ Caxton Club "Provocateurs in Print" Symposium, Newberry Library, Chicago. He also delivered the following conference paper and reading: "IKEA and the World as Text/The Text as World, Or Writing the Intersemiotic Life" at &NOW Festival of New Writing, University of Colorado, Boulder. "FC2 @ 40 / The Forty-Year Anniversary of FC2 Press," AWP Annual Convention, Seattle. He was a Visiting Professor, Université Paris 13, Paris, France, during which he attended two days of seminars on his writing held at Université Paris 8 & Université Paris 13. His novel *TOC: A New-Media Novel* was exhibited in "Moving Words: Kinetic Poetry & Prose, 1984-2014," at the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

He was also present at two presentations of the French edition of his novel: "Rencontre avec Steve Tomasula," reading by translator from *Ligatura*, Librairie Charybde, Paris, France; and "Nouvelles formes d'écriture et de lecture à l'Astrolabe." Dramatic reading (Valentine Herrenschildt) from *Ligatura* (with music and animations, Quentin Aurat), L'Astrolabe: Scène de musiques actuelles d'Orléans, et CICLIC - Région Centre, Orléans, France. He has been promoted from Associate to Full Professor.

Excerpts from **Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi's** manuscript-in-progress, *The Holy City, Dream & The Traveler*, were published in *Denver Quarterly*, and in *Spolia Magazine's* The Medieval Issue, an exciting volume she is thrilled to be a part of and that features work in translation, poetry by Charles Bernstein and an essay by literary critic John V. Fleming. This winter *Fra Keeler* was featured in *Slate Magazine's* 2013 list of criminally under-appreciated books, and was also reviewed by Gerald L. Bruns in the *American Book Review*. Her short story "The Cleanse" is forthcoming from *The American Reader*, selected by Ben Marcus, and an excerpt from a second manuscript-in-progress, *Zero, or Love & Chaos in the Mediterranean: A Diptych*, will be published by *BOMB Magazine* this summer. She would like to thank ISLA for making the project possible and for their continued funding of archival research in Florence, Italy. Lastly, thanks to the support of a Teaching Beyond the Classroom Grant, she has invited authors Caitlin Horrocks and Amina Cain to visit her fiction class Walking, Writing, Thinking.

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS

John Matthias published poetry, fiction, and essays this year in *Parnassus*, *Boulevard*, *Pleiades*, and *The Common*. He gave a reading from his *Collected Poems* at The Poetry Foundation in Chicago. His novel, *Different Kinds of Music*, will be published this summer by Shearsman.



NOTRE DAME REVIEW

Three Cheers for the Notre Dame Review!



The Best American Essays 2013 honored the **Notre Dame Review** by placing its Summer/Fall 2012 issue among the "Notable Special Issues of the Year" and listed two essays from that issue, "The Three Lost Men" by Harry Mark Petrakis and "Then" by Thomas McGoignle, among the "Notable Essays" of 2012. Congratulations to the staff of NDR and especially to William O'Rourke, who selected the essays.



People of Interest featured in this year's *Notre Dame Review*:

Issue 36, Summer/Fall 2013:

Joseph Doerr '98

Kevin Ducey '04

Robert Lavolette '11

James M. Wilson '05

James Walton, Emeritus Faculty

Issue 37, Winter/Spring 2014:

Renee D'Aoust '06

Rumit Pancholi '08

John Matthias, Emeritus Faculty



ALUMNI FEATURED

IN THE ALUMNI INTERVIEW SERIES

Have you been to the CWP [blog](#) recently?

It's becoming an easy way to get updates from our graduates on their lives after the MFA. Every month this academic year, we've featured interviews with the following alumni:

Tome Coyne '99
Shannon Doyne '00
Desmond Kon '09
Kristen Eliason '08
Stephanie Guerra '04
Gwendolyn Oxenham '06
Campbell Irving '04
Lisa De Niscia '93
Christina Yu '08
Jeanne De Vita '00
Mark Marino '96
James M. Wilson '05

Check 'em out!

2014 Richard Sullivan Prize in Fiction

Congratulations to

Peter LaSalle

winner of the 2014 Sullivan Prize for his manuscript

What I Found Out About Her

which will be published by the
University of Notre Dame Press in Fall 2014.

The Sullivan Prize for Fiction was judged by
professors William O'Rourke and Valerie Sayers.

POETRY

Katherine Cousino
Shepherd College, BA

Chris Holdaway
University of Auckland, BA, MA

AeHee Lee
Calvin College, BA

Nichole Riggs
University of Arizona, BA

Alethea Tusher
University of Minnesota, BA

M A T R I C U L A T I O N

FICTION

Evan Harris
University of Leeds, BA

Anthony Messina
Marist College, BA

Kyle Muntz
Indiana University South Bend, BA

Matthew Pelkey
Vassar College, BA

Bret Nye
Wittenberg University, BA
Miami University, MA

September

10 Dan Vera

17 Steve Tomasula

October

8 Duffy Lecture

16 Valerie Mejer

2014 - 2015 Reading Series

[unofficial with MANY more to be added] Check the [WEB](#).

November

5 Phillip Levine/Christina Pugh

February

11 Lynn Tillman
Emily Grecki

March

18 John Shoptaw

Alum pictures follow their entry!



Matthew Apple '97 became an associate professor in the Department of Communication at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, this past April. He recently published scholarly articles in the *Journal of Applied Measurement* and *JALT Journal*, and his co-edited book *Language Learning Motivation in Japan* was released by [Multilingual Matters](#) in October. Despite being chock-full of statistics and academic jargon, for some reason the book briefly rose to #1 in the English language Kindle section of Amazon Japan. Matt is hard at work on yet another academic volume, due out in a year or so, in collaboration with English teachers around Asia, and his new seminar class for 3rd year students, "Teaching and researching second language acquisition," will start in April. Matt also started a [personal web page](#) which probably needs more work. He even started a (gasp) creative work of science fiction slash mysticism on the cloud with a former classmate based in D.C. At some point in the next few months, he plans to sleep. In the meantime, there's always coffee.

Matt Benedict '94 had a staged reading of his play "A False Lie" at The Firehouse Theater in South Bend with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Memorial Regional Cancer Center.

Jackson Bliss '07 finished his Ph.D. at USC in Literature and Creative Writing in 2013, where he worked with TC Boyle and Aimee Bender. He had short stories and essays published in *Kartika Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Fiction International*, *Huffington Post UK* and *Tin House*. LB and he are

seriously considering moving back to LA.

Margaret Emma (that would be Meg) Brandl '13 has spent the past year working in the Admissions Office at Louisiana Tech University, where her middle brother is a freshman. She also got to chaperone her youngest brother and 80 of his closest high school marching band friends on the band's trip to London for the London New Year's Day Parade. This fall she will be pursuing a Ph.D. in English with a Creative Writing concentration at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.

Stacy Cartledge '00 just turned 40; in the same week he lost his penultimate baby tooth, a molar which never got pushed out three decades ago like it should've. Unbelievable as it sounds, he quit smoking over a year ago, and his promotion to Associate Professor at Delaware County Community College will be official in the fall. He published a couple of poems in *Tapestry* last summer and is (slowly) nearing completion of his next collection.

Somehow, in the midst of Life with an exaggerated capital "L", **Dawn Comer '98** managed to eke out a few creative accomplishments this year. Her old story "Mashed Potatoes, No Gravy" found a home in the new *Watercress Journal*, her new story "Evangeline Prays for Downton" was warmly received by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, and her SwampFire summer retreat was restorative as always. Best of all, the Ohio Arts Council recommended and she won the 2014 Individual Excellence Award in Fiction, awarded in April. Dawn plans to take a writer's residency aboard the

Southwest Chief this summer, regardless of whether Amtrak agrees to let her ride for free. **Thade Correa '13** has been



hired as an Associate Professor of English by Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Indiana, where, most recently, he has been teaching introductory writing classes organized around issues of digitality, individuality, and community. He has also returned to teaching music at HGS Music Studios of both Highland and Crown Point, Indiana, where his piano studio currently numbers over 30 students. Teaching both of his passions has left him feeling satisfied but oftentimes very tired; nevertheless, his poetry, translations, and essays have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Poetry City, USA / Vol. 4*, *Bird's Thumb*, *Prime Number*, *RHINO*, *Asymptote*, *Paragraphiti*, *The Ostrich Review*, *Actuary Lit* (founded by his wonderful ND classmates, **Drew Kalbach '13** and **Beth Towle '13**) and elsewhere. This past year, he has also overseen the publication of several musical compositions (including *Three Pieces for Piano*, *Two Poems of Louise Glück* for voice and piano, *Simple Gifts: Variations* for flute or violin and piano, *Set Me As a Seal* for voice and piano, and *Six Poems of Walt Whitman*, also for voice and piano) with his longtime music publisher, Alliance Publications, Inc. He has also been at work on translating into English the French poet Yves Bonnefoy's first book, entitled *On the Mo-*

tion and Stillness of Douve. He maintains his habit of drinking too much coffee.

Betsy Cornwell '12 eloped to Gretna Green last October, and now she lives in a hundred-year-old turf-heated cottage in west Ireland with a cat, two dairy goats, some chickens, and her husband. She sold *Compass*, a sequel to her debut novel *Tides*, last year, blogs at [TheRoseAndChestnut.com](#), and has an essay about writing and travel (featuring fellow alum **Trish Connolly '12**) forthcoming in the Embodiment issue of *Parabola*. She will be teaching creative writing in the Virgin Islands this summer.



Tom Coyne '99 and his wife welcomed Caroline Grace Coyne into the world in June. She and big sis Maggie are doing wonderfully. This summer he'll be setting out to do his next book, *A Course Called the Kingdom*, in which he'll be searching the highlands and lowlands of Scotland for the secret to golf. The book comes out in 2015 from Simon & Schuster. He also has a story called "The Dream Tee" in a June issue of *Sports Illustrated*. He got to make a golf dream come true for somebody else this time — a vet who wanted to play a round with the guys who kept him alive in Afghanistan.

KEEPING UP WITH ALUMNI

Alum pictures follow their entry!



Renée E. D'Aoust '06 moderated and presented on two panels at AWP/Seattle: "Switching Genres Midstream: Finding the Right Match" and "Planning for Surprise: Teaching the Unexpected in Personal Narrative." Recent work has been published in *Ballet Review*, *Naturally Yours* (an anthology to benefit Indiana parks!), *Notre Dame Review*, *Penguin Review*, *Rain Taxi*, and *Under the Sun*. While living in southern Switzerland (with summers spent in northern Idaho), she continues to teach online at Casper College and North Idaho College.



Lisa De Niscia's '93 publishing company, Whitepoint Press, is doing very well. If you'd like to submit your poetry or fiction for consideration, submissions will be open from August 18 - September 18. Please visit whitepointpress.com for all sorts of fabulous info.

Jeanne De Vita '00 has been moonlighting in Los Angeles since May of 2013. When she is not working as Assistant Editorial Director of Musa Publishing, an indie eBook publisher, she is smooching and playing with her new niece. Jeanne has one book of her own under contract (under her pen name) and has edited more than 50 books in the last two years. Jeanne also occasionally takes on contract editing work. Jeanne has several works out to publishers now including a few poems

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and is excited to be scheduled to speak and appear at several industry conferences in 2014. You're welcome to check out her pen name's blog or to follow her on social media. Jeanne is always looking for enthusiastic interns and welcomes submissions of all categories of fiction from her fellow Domers. Contact info dump: musapublishing.com. Pen name: annieanthony.com. Twitter: [@mermaidjeanne](https://twitter.com/mermaidjeanne)



Tony D'Souza '00 won the National Association of Black Journalists Award for Investigative Reporting, the Florida Magazine Association First Place "Charlie" Award for Investigative Reporting, the Florida Magazine Association Second Place Feature Writing, the Florida Magazine Association Third Place Feature Writing, the Society of Professional Journalists Florida Chapter Sunshine State Second Place Investigative Reporting Prize, and Third Place in the Society of Professional Journalists 11-State South Region "Green Eyeshade" Award.

Sandra Dedo '06 is a Communications Manager at Liazon.

Kristen Eliason '08 has a collection of poetry, *Picture Dictionary*, forthcoming with Flaming Gilet Press. The collection can be ordered [here](#). Kristen is a Proposal Writer at Gilbane Building Company.

Esteban (Steve) Galindo '97 is still living in Southern California; still working in the mexican food industry; still married to a very patient wife; now

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father to two boys, ages 8 and 3; and still pounds away at the keyboard on occasion. Please feel free to find him on Twitter ([@eivgalindo](https://twitter.com/eivgalindo)).



Chris Gerben '03 and his wife welcomed their first daughter, Orla Gerben, into the world this past June.



Stephanie Guerra '04 won the 2013 Virginia Hamilton Essay Award for her research article: Using Urban Fiction to Engage At-Risk and Incarcerated Youth in Literacy Instruction, *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 55.5. She also got a 2014 City Artist grant to help fund her upcoming title, *Out of Aces*, and to do free readings around Seattle. She also got a Seattle Youth Arts grant to keep running a creative writing program at the juvenile correctional facility.

Jarrett Haley '08 moved to San Diego with his family and became Senior Editor for *FireRescue Magazine* and Public Safety Communications. *BULL* still goes strong, and in the fall will publish Michigan inmate Curtis Dawkins' debut book, *Prison Ink*.

This year, **Lily Hoang '06** had three manuscripts accepted for publication: her choose-your-own adventure love story *The Old Cat Lady* (1913 Press), *Invisible Women* (Publishing Genius), and her anthology, co-edited with Joshua Marie Wilkinson, *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on the Avant-Garde and Accessibility* (Night Boat Books), all forthcoming 2014-15. This fall, she will be Distinguished Visiting Writer at Cornell College. She continues to teach in the MFA program at New Mexico State University, where she is Prose Editor for *Puerto del Sol*.

Drew Kalbach '13 is now in the Ph.D. program in English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan.

Katie Lattari '13 currently works for the University of Maine Office of University Development. She also adjuncts one section of Introduction to Creative Writing for the English Department at UMaine. In October she gave a reading at the &NOW Festival, which was held in Boulder, Colorado, and her novella *American Vaudeville* is under consideration at a few presses.

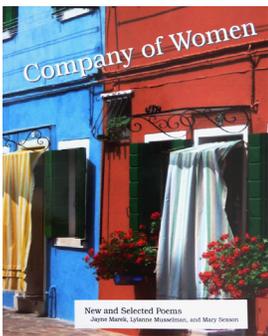
In 2013, **Jayne Marek '05** had two book publications: a chapbook, *Imposition of Form on the Natural World* (Finishing Line Press), and another poetry book she co-authored with two writing friends, Lylanne Musselman and Mary Sexson: *Company of Women: New and Selected Poems* (Chatter House Press).

As *Company of Women*, Jayne and her friends gave readings in Chicago, IL; Toledo, OH; Three Oaks, MI; and Indianapolis, IN. She gave individual readings in Indianapolis and in Terre Haute as part of the

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Alum pictures follow their entry!

Borderlands West poetry initiative (Borderlands North was the event held at Notre Dame last year). She also spent a month in Chicago as part of an NEH Summer Institute on the topic of "Making Modernism," e.g. studying how modernist arts appeared in Chicago.



Mark Marino '96 has created a netprov called "The Speidi-Show," which you can find at: <http://speidishow.com/>. Netprov, for the curious, is the space where reality TV meets improvisational writing game, all via Twitter.

Ruth Martini '11 is a writer at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Courtney McDermott '11 published her short story collection, *How They Spend Their Sundays*, with Whitepoint Press.

Janet McNally '05 is still a Visiting Assistant Professor at Canisius College in Buffalo, teaching creative writing, English, and honors classes. She has a story in the latest

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Boulevard Magazine and poems out recently in magazines including *Crazyhorse*, *Rhino Poetry*, *Ecotone*, and *Nimrod*. The littlest McNally-Manks (Daphne and Luella) are nearly a year old, and Juno will be three in April. She loves books and stories just like her mom.



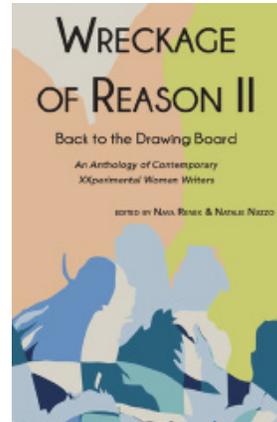
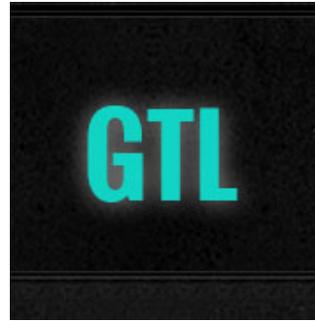
Tom Miller's '06 alternate history/fantasy novel *The Philosopher's War* will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2015 with a sequel to follow. The book deal is worth seven figures. He is in his final year of medical school at Pitt and is marching into emergency medicine. He and his wife Abby welcomed their first child in March; they're pondered the literary implications of naming him Arthur or Henry Miller.

Monica Mody '10 published poems in the Spring issue of *VAYAVYA*, and *Mipoesias*. Her collection *Kala Pani* was published in December 2013 by 1913 Press.

Steve Owen '13 runs Mixer Publishing and is now a Ph.D. Candidate in Fiction in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Utah.

Melanie Page '10 started *Grab the Lapels* in 2013, a blog site that only reviews books by women. She was interviewed by the site HTML Giant about her reasons for starting GTL. In February 2014, the anthology *Wreckage of Reason II: Back to the Drawing Board* came hot off

the presses. Melanie's story "Metal Eye Drifter" is contained within.



Elijah Park '10 has been working in Enrollment at DePaul University since graduating from Notre Dame. He evaluates transcripts and other miscellaneous courses and assigns DePaul equivalents. This is his first year in DePaul's Master's in Secondary Education English program. He volunteers at 826CHI, which is a non-profit organization that helps kids with their expository and creative writing skills. He's the poetry editor for DePaul's student literature magazine, *Crook & Folly*. And he's also reading fiction for *Another Chicago Magazine*. He still has too much free time though. Oh also, he grew his hair out.

Krista Quinby '03 is currently collaborating with her brother on an eventual memoir that currently looks like a [blog](#). Other than that, and the freelance marketing writing she does, there's a whole lot of just raising little people and doing laundry. It's pretty spec-

tacular. She also organized a writer's retreat this year, which was a rousing success and will hopefully become an annual event. It's called "Bread & Cigarettes," and it's for mothers who need a break from their families to drink scotch and write.



Amy Reese '01 is the new Systems and Emerging Technologies Librarian at North Dakota State University in Fargo. She began in January, lives in a small house in a quiet neighborhood with her dog Kismet and siamese cat Alba. The coolest (and perhaps dorkiest) trivia about the city is that the wood chipper from the Coen brothers' movie resides in the city's visitor center and has its own guestbook.

Over the past year, **Sami Schalk '10** finished her Ph.D. in Gender Studies and graduated in May 2014. Recently she received a prestigious American Association of University Women dissertation completion fellowship as well as travel grants from the Disability History Association and the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). In September, Sami became the youngest and first ABD individual to give a Black Experience Lecture Series lecture at Bucknell University. Her article, "Metaphorically Speaking: Disability Metaphors in Feminist Writing," came out in the *Disability Studies Quarterly*, and she was awarded the Women of Color Caucus

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Alum pictures follow their entry!

Essay Award from the Women of Color Caucus of NWSA. In 2013 Sami also acted as the Program Coordinator for Young Women Writing for (a) Change of Bloomington and she continued her work leading creative writing workshops at an afterschool program for children living in transitional housing with their mothers who left domestic violence situations.

Mike Smith '01 is now in his fourth year of teaching at Delta State University and editing *Tapestry*, a literary journal focused on the Mississippi Delta and small-town life. (They read from Sept.-Dec. every year, by the way, and would love to hear from some more alumni! Only poetry at the moment, though.) Last year, he started to write some nonfiction and has become obsessed. Otherwise, all is much as it has been for his large family, as they continue to make their home in the Deep South.

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Ryan Smith '09 is sous chef and a culinary instructor for a French bakery and cooking school in Chicago. He makes fantastic eggs Benedict — and can teach you how, so long as you bring him champagne. His cat, Vigo, enjoys eating Saint-André and just about anything from the trash can in the kitchen.



Marcela Sulak '92 hosts a weekly radio show on Wednesdays at 12:50 EST. Tel Aviv in Translation, on TLV 1, a web-based radio station. You can find it by searching <http://tlv1.fm>. She is also co-editing *Family Resemblance*, an

KEEPING UP WITH ALUMNI CONT...

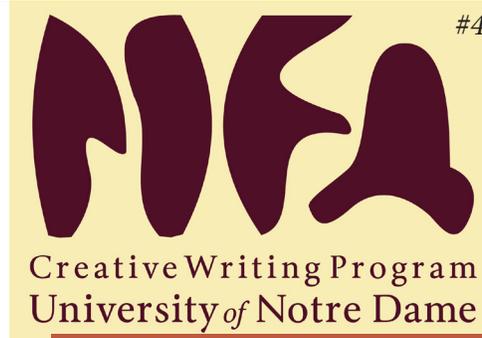
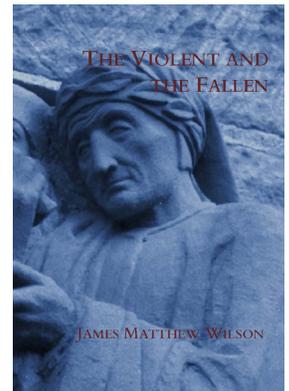
anthology and exploration of 8 hybrid literary genres to be published by Rose Metal Press in 2015.

Beth Towle '13 was accepted to the Ph. D. program in Rhetoric and Composition at Purdue University. She continues her work discussing contemporary poetry on www.actuarylit.com.

John Michael Vore '93 has created a new, Mailer-like advertisement for his (old) self, which can be found at <http://vorearchive.blogspot.com>.

James Matthew Wilson '05 awaits judgment of his tenure application in the Department of Humanities at Villanova University. This last Christmas, his second chapbook, *The Violent and the Fallen*, was published by Finishing Line press, with promise of reviews in several newspapers and magazines.

He is now under contract with Wiseblood Books to publish his first full-length collection, *Some Permanent Things*, as well as a small critical book, *The Catholic Imagination in Modern American Poetry*, both of which will appear in November 2014. In other news, he brought the family back to Notre Dame on the weekend of the Michigan State game, so that all three children will keep the image of the Golden Dome seared devotedly in their imaginations. The kids are seven, four, and one now, and each of them has enjoyed the Pennsylvania winter of snow days and piles and piles of snow.



Got a favorite? These striking logo-type images were designed by our very own and extremely talented '14 MFA graduate, Ali Taheri Araghi. Please weigh in with a vote for which design you'd like to represent us in social media. Email choover1@nd.edu and advanced thanks!

I'm now into my 10th year with the program and the countdown to retirement begins. I'm considering a neighborhood Puppetry Road Show. Let me know if I am to burn all evidence of your existence, or not. Honestly, the pleasure has been ALL mine!

Sadly we've lost email contact with the following alum and would be extremely grateful if you could help us reconnect with: Wei Liu. IF YOU CHANGED your snail mail or email let me know ASAP. Keep writing and keep in touch. We promise to keep reading! xoxoxoxo Cheers, Coleen