

SO IT GOES...

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

Director's Letter

After a long murky winter, clear, cold sunshine is finally annotating the campus, n.b.'ing the spire, dome, backpacks, branches, hairdos and cranes. This academic year was filled with vivid highlights for the Creative Writing Program, including one of the last major readings given by US Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Phil Levine, who filled the McKenna Hall Auditorium this November with a warm contingent of students, professors and members of the community. At 86, Phil Levine was an entire delight and very much himself—warm, brilliant, a little disputatious and with an identifiable spark in his eye as if both pleased and displeased that anything on earth could still surprise him. Levine's reading was also the first of our newly convened biannual Ernest Sandeen Memorial Poetry Reading, celebrating colleague, mentor, poet and critic Ernest Sandeen, who taught at Notre Dame for an incredible fifty years. We were so pleased that Ernest Sandeen's son, the scholar Eric Sandeen, could be present with us in November to recognize Phil Levine and inaugurate the series. When Phil Levine passed on in February of this year, we all felt the pain of his passing and joy at his life and life's work.



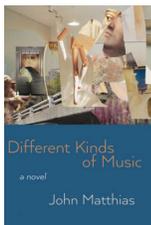
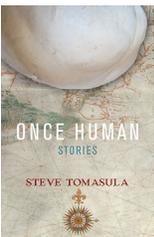
Phil Levine's reading was just one of many noteworthy events this year—including readings by Lynne Tillman, Lucy Corin, Jenny Bouilly, Ross Gay, Sarah Fox, John Shoptaw and the Mexican poet Valerie Mejer. We were also honored to co-sponsor various readings and events with the Institute for Latino Studies Letras Latinas program, including an exhibit and reading by the Chicano writer and artist Maceo Montoya. And we were particularly happy to host visits from an array of other writers, like Hiromi Ito of Japan and Derrick Austin

and Marcelo Hernandez Castillo of the UndocuPoets movement, who are doing so much to improve access and visibility for students of every immigration status in graduate writing programs and the wider US literary community. The vivacity and diversity of our Notre Dame writing community is celebrated and enlarged by the visits of such an accomplished and dynamic array of writers.

Aside from events and visitors, this year marked two milestones in the history of our program. The first is that for the first time in the program's history, every incoming MFA student will be fully funded (with a tuition waiver and a stipend) and with full access to health care. The second milestone is that our founder, William O'Rourke, who built this program using every ounce of guile, drive, vision and chutzpah available to a mortal, retired at the close of the academic year. It is impossible to imagine this program without William, and in some sense we don't have to—he will always be present in the tenor of this program and in the DNA of what we do: we carve out a place in this world and on this campus in which writers can write, think, talk and grow together as humans and as artists.

Our MFA students rocked the mic at various locales this year, both through their own MFA readings and at readings in community venues celebrating the Day of the Dead and Valentine's Day. They also brought their energy and innovation to a new community writing project at the Juvenile Justice Center and various projects at the Robinson Community Center, South Bend schools and on campus. I love our students for their energy, eclecticism, passion and compassion.

—Joyelle McSweeney



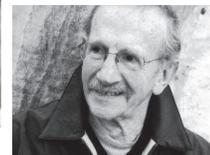
Valerie Mejer



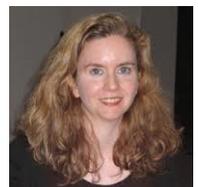
Victor Fowler



Jenny Bouilly



Philip Levine



Christina Pugh

VISITING WRITERS 2014-2015

This last academic year brought a stunning and diverse set of visiting writers, including two alums from the program, as well as one current and emeritus faculty.

The semester began with **Dan Vera** weaving deftly between readings from his prize-winning collection, his first book, and more recent poems. With tender care and sharp incision, Vera's poems figured around instances of misunderstanding and revelation, gently vacillating between joy and melancholy, discovery and alienation, both devising and describing what it means simply to be a person in the world.

On September 24, **Steve Tomasula** read from *Once Human*, his new collection of short fiction, which explores "those spaces where life is shaped by science and the technologies we bring into being." Tomasula kept the audience riveted with *Farewell to Kilmanjaro*, which was simultaneously an appropriation of Hemmingway's work and a history of literature as whole. As the author of six books, Tomasula's writing has been called "a reinvention of the novel," often incorporating extensive visual design, an emphasis on intertextuality, and

formal experimentation.

A week later, **John Matthias**, distinguished poet and emeritus professor at Notre Dame, read from *Different Kinds of Music*, his first novel after a long career in poetry. Combining acute observation with strong comedy and poetic interludes, Matthias had the audience laughing with a story about a man who gets his hand stuck in a teapot.

In mid-October, **Victor Fowler** was an eager storyteller, whose poems in their softly musical Spanish explored Cuba through its successes and trials. Darting around his stories, we felt as if we were remembering with him. He gave a polished duet of the original Spanish language and the English translation, mixing in impromptu narratives which provided an exquisite experience for all.

Three days later **Valerie Mejer**, author of *Rain of the Future* (released in early 2014 by Action Books), visited to read her surreal, plaintive poetry in both English and Spanish, too. Author of multiple collec-

tions of poetry, Mejer's work explores containment, fragility, and how memories become dreams, filtered through a phosphorescence of language and imagery.



Sarah Fox



Lucy Corin



Lynne Tillman



Ross Gay



Emily Grecki



John Shoptaw



Judith Butler

October ended with Notre Dame alum **Jenny Bouilly** visiting to read from her new collection of creative non-fiction, which deals with the relation of the present to the past and particularly with motherhood. The author of four books, most recently *not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them*, Bouilly's work covers a wide range, from fiction to poetry to non-fiction and (especially) the somewhere in-between.

In early November the inaugural Ernest Sandeen Memorial Reading, a biannual literary event which commemorates our esteemed colleague, poet, scholar and teacher, Ernest Sandeen was given by the former US Poet Laureate and Pulitzer-prize-winning poet, **Philip Levine** who was joined by poet **Christina Pugh**. The Sandeen Memorial Reading event is distinctive in that the senior poet selected to give the reading will invite a younger poet to read with him or her at the event, thus honoring both Ernest Sandeen's accomplishment as a poet and his many decades of dedicated teaching at the University of Notre Dame. Levine, author of countless volumes of poetry, read an electrifying selection of work from across his career. Christina Pugh read from her third collection of poems, *Grains of the Voice*. This reading event is captured on our YouTube site which can be found at the bottom of the program's homepage — have a look!

In mid-November came a visit from **Sarah Fox**, who describes herself as "a bit witchy." If her goal was transfixion at the Hammes Bookstore, she succeeded. With artistic poise, Fox was able to share with the audience something of an altered state of consciousness via poetry that can be both biting ironic and savagely honest.

To start out the spring semester in January, **Lucy Corin** read from her flash collection, *One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses*, a series of linked pieces which dramatize the idea of an "apocalypse" as a change or loss in everyday life, with material that was alternately humorous and serious.

In February **Lynne Tillman** visited to read from a career-spanning selection of her work, starting with *Haunted Houses* (her first novel) and ending on *American Genius, A Comedy* (her most recent). The audience was captivated, both by her sharp, analytical prose as well as her great stage presence and insightful answers to questions. Post-reading she gave the best Q & A this newsletter editor has heard, not to mention — she kissed me.

The following week, **Ross Gay** regaled the Hammes Bookstore with his enthusiasm, clear, emotionally resonant poems, and great sense of humor. He read poems about love, life and death, punctuated by digressions on Isaac Hayes and gardening in the 80s, then finished with a massive, almost epic poem to finish the night. And, a long line of people wanting signatures after.

February ended with Sparks fellow and 2014 alum **Emily Grecki** returning to read from a new work of fiction that fell somewhere between surrealism and a relationship story. Her writing has a strong voice, lots of comedy, and some very surprising narrative moves, as well as great details like a woman with a window in her chest and a parrot who was maybe a parakeet.

In the middle of March three readings were given in the same week, starting with poet **John Shoptaw** who read from his manuscript, *Times Beach*, the second winner of the Notre Dame Review Book Prize. In addition to the reading, he told a number of stories from his life to accentuate the poems and their attitude towards nature, which gave the audience a deeper insight into the work.

The next evening was the third annual **Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam!** where poets from Notre Dame and the surrounding community competed to see who could slam the best. It was an intense, exciting night (featuring everything from political and personal poems to a rhyme about Santa), with the prize eventually going to Carnessa "the Poetess" Carnes, who came from Michigan City to compete.

To finish off a very busy week of readings and events, we were visited by University of Michigan post-grads **Marcelo Hernandez Castillo** and **Derrick Austin**, both great poets in addition to their initiative to create awareness for more diverse MFA programs throughout the country. Reading from a selection of work that was both politically charged and classically elegant, reoccurring subjects included the problems of race, discrimination, and police violence in the United States today.

On the eve of AWP the university enjoyed a visit from **Judith Butler**, who gave a lecture covering themes from across her entire career, but with focus on her recent work in gender studies and feminist politics. This was an event that fulfilled the English department's vision for guest-lectures — to foster conversations across disciplines and to establish the English Department as an intellectual center in the College and University. Success.

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 Editor: Coleen J. Hoover

The MFA student readings started in late November with a bang. First, **Jessica Newman** read from her manuscript *Passages*, which combines fiction and nonfiction in a narrative made up of compact flash pieces; then **Jace Brittain** awed the audience with a multimedia performance combining audience participation, music, sign language, and of course: reading. Last, **Dev Varma** read from a series of “recipes” for life that brilliantly combined humor, pathos, and style.

In early December, the second MFA reading took off with **Julia Harris** and a series of linked poems concerning the self, the body, and female interiority, followed by **Thirii Myint**, who read two very different stories: an experimental text evoking myth and loss, followed by a short, hilarious pastiche of a sports novel. Finally, **Sarah Roth** closed off the night with a reading from her thesis project, which blends a study of history and text with the life and work of photographer Roman Vishniak.

The fall semester ended with the second year students coming together for an extravaganza of multimedia and performance selections. A hockey-helmet wearing **Paul Cunningham** read a poem about the (murderous) mating habits of grasshoppers, while guest star **Sarah Roth**, donning a serial killer mask, accompanied with a meat grinder; followed by **Suzi Garcia** who read poems that challenge notions of race, gender, and representation, complete with images from various social networks. **Garret Travis** read from his thesis project, *Glitterworld* (a dystopian novel that could be described as having elements of postmodernism) and followed with a brilliant short film reflecting elements of the novel. Finally, **Rachel Zavec**, wearing antlers and projecting images of dead rabbits on the wall, read from a series of poems that blend elements of science fiction and the grotesque.

The spring reading series began with four first year students. **Aehee Lee** opened the night with a series of witty, lyrical poems dealing with the crossing of national boundaries, which were as touching as they were beautiful. **Bret Nye** followed with a kinetic, hilarious, metafictional story set in small town Ohio, complete with backflipping cats and three endings; and then **Matt Pelkey**, who read an amusing story from his collection-in-progress that centers loosely

around bicycles and urban Chicago. The night ended with **Nichole Riggs** who read a series of poems and verse-plays from a collection that blends elements of Norse mythology with the surreal.

The second part of the MFA reading series continued in early April. Opener **Chris Holdaway** charmed the audience with an extended, multi-page poem (which he brought to the podium taped together like a scroll) that combined meditations on quantum physics with the terror of the Anthropocene. Next, **Anthony “Code Red” Messina** read from a new work in progress, a series of overlapping narratives, packaged as flash fiction that verged into the violent and the surreal. Last but not least, **Katy Cousino** read from a deeply political, grotesque verse play also incorporating elements of audience participation.

The academic year concluded with our graduating second-year MFA students thesis reading (four poets and six prose writers), who wowed the audience with their brilliant, eclectic work. This was an astounding night, a testament to the energy of the Notre Dame Creative Writing Program as a whole — these students will be missed very much. At the conclusion of the event William O’Rourke was introduced and honored with a gift and a tributary booklet written by former students who joined the graduating class and audience in saying farewell to the program’s founding father.

Due to the passing of Father Hesburgh a reading originally proposed prior to the thesis reading was rescheduled. This MFA reading started with a performance by **Evan Harris**, who read an excerpt from his acerbic, politically complex fiction that straddles the line between novel and memoir. Next, **Kyle Muntz** read from a piece that blended tonal elements of ancient poetry with the surreal and the grotesque. Then, to finish off the night, **Alethea Tusher** read from her poetry which is simultaneously an exploration of the world and herself.

Once again we remind you to visit the [YouTube site](#) to hear both our student readings and visiting author events.

OUR

BUSY

STUDENTS

Jace Brittain’s short story “EN MEDIĀS ABYME” was published in *The Destroyer* magazine (2015). His review of Jenny Erpenbeck’s *The End of Days* (trans. Susan Bernofsky) was published by Fanzine, and an excerpt from his novel *Dumm Film* was published in *Deluge* (2015).

Katherine Cousino has organized two MFA reading events within the community of South Bend in her first year: “An Ofrenda of Voices: Celebrating the Dead” and the MFA Valentine’s Day reading held at the Birdsell Mansion in downtown South Bend. She also helped to organize the annual poetry slam. Finally, she spent every Friday co-facilitating writing workshops at the Juvenile Justice Center and plans to do so again next year. She is presently writing a variety of poems, but loves most a verse-play she calls THE GIRDLES.

Paul Cunningham won this year’s Sparks Prize, which was judged by Michael Mejia. His translation of Sara Tuss Efrik’s *The Night’s Belly* was also named a finalist in the Goodmorning Menagerie 2015 Chapbook-in-Translation contest. His poetry appeared in *Luna Luna Magazine*, *Sink Review*, *BOAT*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *TAGVVERK*, and *Bat City Review*. He has new work forthcoming in *glitter-MOB*, *LEFT*, and *Art Nouveau*.

Jonathan Diaz was one of Notre Dame’s nominees for the Best New Poets 2015 anthology.

Suzanne Garcia has been awarded the Teaching Apprenticeship in Gender Studies for the 2015-2016 school year, and was featured on the 2015 AWP panel “Hybridity as Origin: Writing from Multiracial Experience.” She accepted a summer internship with Hachette Publishing in NYC for summer 2015.

Evan Harris has received a Nanovic research grant to do research for a novel in London over the summer.

Julia Harris had poetry published in *Deluge*, and will most likely be working at a tech firm in either Charleston or Los Angeles.

Chris Holdaway published poems in *LUMINA*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *Sweet Mammalian*, and *brief*. He facilitated the creation of a new anarchic/handmade journal of work by current and former Notre Dame MFAers, which debuted at AWP15 in Minneapolis. Inspired by early 20th Century Russian Constructivist books held in the

Hesburgh Library Special Collections, *LACI/LAKE Issue Zero* featured highly geometric and sculpted poetry and prose. His press back in New Zealand Compound Press published the chapbook *Bound: an ode to falling in love*, co-authored by Carolyn DeCarlo and Jackson Nieuwland.

Ae Hee Lee had poems published in *The Rain, Party, & Disaster Society* (December 2014) and Amazon's literary journal *Day One* (March 2015). This summer, she plans on leading a creative writing workshop for the children in El Milagro in Peru under the non-profit organization Compassion as she did last year. She also plans to train other teachers in the organization, and help create simple print anthologies from the work produced by the children in class.

Anthony Messina helped teach classes at the Robinson Community Center, and plans to spend this summer working on a number of diverse projects.

Kyle Muntz's most recent novel, *Green Lights*, was released in early 2014, and selected as one of the best of the year by Dennis Cooper. Also, he has continued as a contributor at *Entropy* magazine, with a focus on panel discussions and reviews.

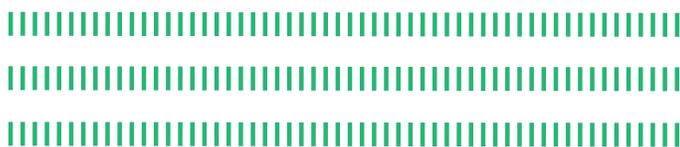
Thirii Myint has done these things in her two years at Notre Dame: 1. Published "Sea Monster" in *Caketrain*; 2. Published "You Rail, and the road" in *Sleepingfish*; 3. Runner-up for *Fairy Tale Review* Fiction Contest; 4. Semifinalist for *SLS-Disquiet* Literary Contest; 5. Sparks Summer Fellowship with Hachette Summer 2014; 6. Full Scholarship to attend Tin House Writers' Workshop July 2015; and 7. She will be attending The University of Denver in the fall.

Jessica Newman accepted a PhD at the University of Louisville in rhetoric.

Brett Nye's story "Factory" was published in April at *Paper Tape* Magazine, as a part of their "Hauntings" series.

Matthew Pelkey continues to work as a policy analyst at the Center for Science in the Public Interest. (A non-profit based in D.C. that advocates for more nutritious foods.) He recently completed a white paper on marijuana edibles that was presented at the National Food Policy Conference in D.C.

In conjunction with Sarah Roth, Matt also welcomed a creative writing class from Warsaw, Indiana, to Notre Dame. He and Sarah led exercises in creative non-fiction based on Joe Brainard's "I Remember," and were impressed by the students' intelligence and eloquence — quite a stunning bunch.



AWP REPORT

Notre Dame was represented at AWP by students from both the creative writing office (Kyle Muntz, Christopher Holdaway), who sold a handmade chapbook focused on visual poetics with contributions from the MFA student body, and the *Notre Dame Review* (Jace Brittain). In addition, creative writing faculty members participated in a number of fantastic panels and readings, from meditations on the modern Catholic author; to anniversary readings for prestigious journals; to a celebration of the intersection between avant-garde poetics and drag.

Nichole Riggs had poetry published in #thebestiary issue of *White Stag*, in the online feminist magazine *S/tick*, and *The Screaming Sheep* magazine. She was also nominated for the 2015 Best New Poets Anthology.

Sarah Roth was a summer 2014 Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Leah Wolfson and Judeo-Spanish translator at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in Washington, DC. She has work forthcoming in the CAHS publication *Documenting Life and Destruction* and in *MAKE*. After graduation, she will be spending the summer in Miami, working as a research assistant for the University of Miami Anthropology Department, and doing community arts outreach with ArtSpring.

This year, she co-facilitated regular creative writing workshops at the Robinson Community Learning Center and at the St. Joseph Juvenile Justice Center. In the spring, she emceed the third annual Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam! and hosted a small workshop for visiting high school students.

In the summer, she'll be training to be a yoga instructor—traveling to India, for several weeks, for a training retreat. In the fall, she'll most likely move to DC to work for a museum while applying to PhD programs.

Garret Travis ran the Rogue Workshop, a creative space for undergraduate and graduate writers to share and critique one another's work. He's in the process of finishing his novel, *GLITTERWORLD*, a multimedia project incorporating text, video, and code.

Alethea Tusher as of the initial writing was footloose and fancy free. But then along came Parks Literary offering her the 2015 summer internship in New York City — look out book world.

Dev Varma won the Kaneb Center's Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award and has started writing book reviews for *MAKE* magazine.

Rachel Zavec had poems published in *Deluge* (September 2014) and *Fairy Tale Review* (April 2015), with work accepted and forthcoming in *White Stag* and *Birdfeast*. She was a finalist and honorable mention in the 2014 Fairy Tale Review Poetry Contest, and won the 2015 AWP Birdfeast Postcard Contest. She was a semifinalist for the 2015 SLS-Disquiet International Literary Prize. This summer she plans to apply for teaching positions abroad, and work on applications for creative PhD programs in performance and visual arts.

AWARDS

William Mitchell Award:

Sarah Roth & Dev H. Varma

Samuel and Mary Anne Hazo Award for Poetry:

Rachel Zavec

Nicholas Sparks Prize:

Paul Cunningham

Billy Maich Academy of American Poets:

Julia Harris

Johannes Göransson's sixth book, *The Sugar Book*, came out this spring from Tarpaulin Sky. Poems from it have been published or are forthcoming in such journals as *Lana Turner*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Iowa Review* and *10-tal* (in translation by Clemens Altgård). Early in the fall his piece "Beware of the Holy Whore" (written with Cassandra Troyan) was performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Later in the fall, he traveled to Harvard, where he participated in a public discussion with Joyelle and Steve Burt about extreme forms of poetry, and gave a talk about the Finland-Swedish modernist Henry Parland. This spring he was in residence with the Swedish poet Aase Berg at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, talking to undergraduates about translation, Swedish poetry and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. With the help of RAs Nichole Riggs and Paul Cunningham, Action Books published new books by Raul Zurita, Hiromi Ito and Maria Negroni.

Orlando Ricardo Menes's new poetry collection, entitled *Heresies*, will be published by the University of New Mexico Press in Fall 2015. Several of his poems also appeared in these literary magazines: "Orphans" in *Callaloo*, vol. 38, no. 1 (Winter 2015), 93; "St. Lazarus the African Instructs Those Who Seek His Healing" and "Toussaint L'Ouverture Imprisoned at Fort de Joux" in the *Harvard Review*, no. 45 (Winter 2013/2014), 22-23; "St. Dollar Welcomes Cuban Refugees at the Freedom Tower"; "St. Rose Counsels the Washerwomen of Lima"; and "St. Campesina, Patroness of Water Healers" in *The Cincinnati Review* [University of Cincinnati], vol. 11, no. 1 (Summer 2014), 51-53. In addition, he gave several poetry readings and presentations both nationally and internationally: Poetry reading and fiction workshop for Second Site: Displacement, Revelation: An International Creative Writing Conference at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel, May 11-13, 2014. Poetry reading and poetics presentation for the Third Biennial Conference of the International Association of Inter-American Studies: De/Colonization in the Americas: Continuity and Change at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima, Perú, August 6-8, 2014. Panel organizer and moderator for "Catholic Writers: At the Crossroads of Faith and Craft" at the Associated Writing Programs Conference in Minneapolis, MN, April 8-11, 2015. Panel presentation for "Latino Catholic Writers," The Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination Conference at The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies in the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, February 19-21, 2015. Poetry Reading for the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series at Hope College in Holland, MI, January 22, 2015. Three panel discussions at the American Literary Translators Association 37th Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15, 2014. Poetry reading at the *Chicago Tribune* Printers Row Lit Fest in Chicago, IL, June 7, 2014.

Joyelle McSweeney admittedly spent much of this year getting the hang of being the Director. But she was also delighted that this year saw the publication of two very different books. One, *Dead Youth, or, The Leaks*, is the darkly comic verse play which won the Leslie Scalapino Prize for Innovative Women Playwrights last year; the other, *The Necropastoral: Poetry, Media, Occults* is a work of goth eco-poetics which came out from the University of Michigan Poets on Poetry Series this winter. She's proud to have work featured on the websites of PENAmerica, The Awl and Hyperallergic and to have work forthcoming in the *Iowa Review*. And, with Johannes Goransson and our Action RA's, she was also proud to publish books by the major poets Raul Zurita, Maria Negroni and Hiromi Ito with Action Books. One of these titles is currently shortlisted for the Best Translated Poetry Book by PEN. Overall, a good, busy year!

William O'Rourke lists: Presenter, 2015 Gathering of Writers, Indiana Writers Center, "The New Soapbox: Writing for Free," Indiana Landmarks Center, Indianapolis, IN, March 21, 2015; Publications: Review-essay, "The Media Burglary and the Media," *Notre Dame Review*, No. 39, Winter/Spring 2015, pp. 211- 225. Commentary, "Torture to one isn't to another," *The South Bend Tribune*, January 10, 2015, p.A9. "Navigating the Other 60s: The Publishing World and the Post-Sixty Writer," *Notre Dame Review*, No. 38, Summer/Fall 2014, pp. 155 – 171. Review, "Reporting on anti-war Catholics and the FBI," *National Catholic Reporter*, Vol. 50, No. 18, June 20-July 3, 2014, pp. 18-19. Essay, "Confessions of a Guilty Freelancer," *CONTEXT*, No. 24, Dalkey Archive Press, Urbana-Champaign, IL, Fall, 2014, pp. 32 – 33.

Valerie Sayers paid an early September visit to Fordham University at Lincoln Center, where her novel was chosen as the "Freshman Book," required summer reading for all entering students. She addressed an auditorium full of captive readers with good hard questions. The paperback of *The Powers* is due out at the end of summer. Her story "The Last Days of Peace and Love" appeared in *TLR: The Literary Review* and "How to Read a Man," originally published in *Zoetrope*, was reprinted in *Field of Fantasies: Baseball Stories of the Strange and Supernatural*, a volume whose unlikely table of contents includes stories by Robert Coover, Jack Kerouac, and T.C. Boyle. She continues to review fiction for the *Washington Post* and *Commonweal*, and conducted an interview with Kelcey Parker for *The Rumpus*.

Steve Tomasula published a collection of short fiction *Once Human: Stories*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press/FC2, 2014 (short-listed for IndiFab Award: Best Book of the Year, Short Fiction). He published the essay "Our Tools Make Us (And Our Literature) Post" in *Transatlantica*, No. 30 décembre 2014. Jean-Yves Pellegrin ed. Université Paris-Sorbonne; the essay "Nodes for a Posthuman Reading" in *Théorie, Littérature, Epistémologie*, Presses Universitaires de Vincennes at Paris 8. No. 30-2013 (2014); and the essay "I Only / Never I" in *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on the Avant-Garde and Accessibility*. Lily Hoang and Joshua Marie Wilkinson eds. New York: Nightboat Books, 2015. His *TOC: A New-Media Novel* was featured in "DP-DB: Digital Poetry for Drunken Boat," *Drunken Boat*. Issue 19, Winter 2014. He gave the following readings from his fiction: from *Once Human* at BathHouse Reading Series, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, April 1, 2015; from *Once Human* at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, February 26, 2015. He gave the Keynote Reading, *TOC* at Text/ures: les objets livres du papier au numérique, Les Archives nationales / Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France, November 19, 2014. He also read from *TOC* at the 2014 Electronic Literature Organization Conference, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, June 19-21, 2014. He gave the invited lecture "Restaging the Body" at "Staging the Body: A Seminar on the Body in the Fiction of Steve Tomasula," Letters et Sciences Humaines, Université de Rouen, Rouen, France. November 18, 2014. While there he was interviewed on R2R Radio, Rouen, France. The &NOW Literary Festival that he founded and co-directs celebrated its 11th year at the California Institute for the Arts, Valencia, CA, March 25-28, 2015.

Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi won the Whiting Writers' Award, a MacDowell Fellowship, and the Italian translation of *FRA KEELER* forthcoming from Giulio Perrone Editore; she will be doing a book presentation in Rome on May 26. Stories from her collection (tentatively titled *OR*) published in and/or forthcoming from *The Brooklyn Rail* and *The American Reader*.

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS

John Matthias's first novel (after a long career in poetry), *Different Kinds of Music*, was published by Shearsman Books in 2014.

NOTRE DAME REVIEW



The second recipient of the *NDR* Book Prize went to **John Shoptaw** for his first collection of poetry, *Times Beach*, which was published in the spring of 2015 by the University of Notre Dame Press



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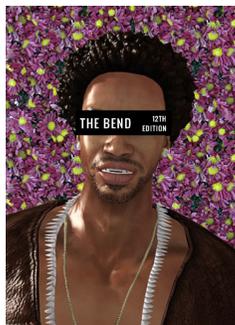


The *Notre Dame Review* Summer/Fall 2014 Number 38 entitled *Listen Here* included the work of poetry alums **Francisco Aragón** and **Susan Blackwell Ramsey**, along with poet faculty emeritus **John Matthias** and prose faculty **William O'Rourke**, and **Valerie Sayers**. Issue 39 Winter/Spring 2015 entitled *Outlines* featured the work of alum **Justin Haynes** along with writing from **John Matthias**, and **William O'Rourke**.



OUTLINES

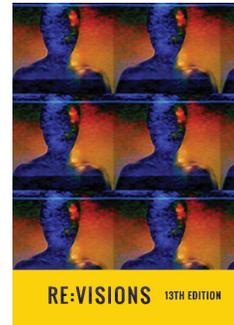
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The 12th edition of *The Bend* brought stellar contributions from C. Kubasta, Dónal Gordon, Danna Ephland, Jessica Maich, Desmond Kon, Lauro Vazquez, Nathan Gunsch, and Sarah Swanson. The managing editor is Dev Varma. Editors included Jace Brittain, Paul Cunningham, Ae Hee Lee, Thirii Myint, Nichole Riggs, Sarah Roth, Garret Travis, and Rachel Zavec. Chris Holdaway prepared the design and layout. A little volume with a lot of punch.

The 13th edition of *Re:Visions* was executed by Dev Varma, too. Garret Travis was the prose editor with Rachel Zavec as the poetry editor. Additional editing was performed by Jace Brittain, Paul Cunningham, Ae Hee Lee, Thirii Myint, Nichole Riggs, Sarah Roth, and Alethea Tusher with assistant editing done by Trini Bui, Charlie Ducey, Jacqueline Cassidy, Natalie Kim, Megan McCormack, and Robert Ryan. Chris Holdaway executed the design and layout.

Enjoy both editions online [here](#).



2015 SANDEEN PRIZE WINNER



A former U.S. Army interrogator, Martin Ott is the author of six books of poetry and fiction, including the forthcoming books *Underdays*, University of Notre Dame Press and *Interrogations*, Fomite Press. More at www.martinottwriter.com.

Ott's book will be published by the University of Notre Dame Press in late fall 2015 and he will read in the spring 2016 semester.

The judges for the Sandeen Prize in Poetry are Orlando Menes and Joyelle McSweeney.

If anyone has contact information for the following alumni please send them to Hoover.14@ND.edu: Wei Liu, Jenica Moore, and Evan Kuhlman.

Are we just virtual? Ever wonder what I look like/sound like? Well, I made my YouTube debut waving goodbye to William have a [look-see](#). —Coleen

2015 - 2016 Reading Series

FALL 2015

Jac Jemc
September 9

Valerie Sayers/Liam Callanan
September 30

Michael Martone
October 7

Angels of Americlypse
October 28

John Yau November 11

SPRING 2016

Paul Cunningham
February 10

Martin Ott
February 17

Claudia Rankine
March 16

Tom McGonigle March 23

David Campos/Rhina Espaillat April 6

MFA Thesis Reading April TBD

MATRICULATION POETRY

Zachary Anderson U of Wyoming, BA, MA

Kelsey Castaneda Georgetown College, BA,

Luis Lopez-Maldonado U of California, BA;
Florida State U, MA

Chris Muravez Sierra Nevada College, BFA

FICTION

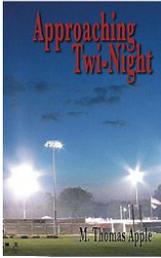
Edithstein Cho-- U of Notre Dame, BA

Bailey Pittenger-- Wake Forest U, BA, MA

Thomson Guster-- U of Pennsylvania, BA

Tania Sarfraz-- Brown U, BA,

Sarah Snider-- Yeshiva U, BA



Matthew Apple '97 recently published his first novel *Approaching Twi-Night* to rave reviews. His non-fiction essay book

(Taking Leave: An American on Paternity Leave in Japan) has been accepted by a UK-based publisher and will be available in fall 2015. Yet another non-fiction, academia-ridden edited book (*L2 Selves and Motivations in Asian Contexts*) is scheduled for late 2015 but more likely early 2016. A creative nonfiction-quasi-fiction book of collected stories and poems (*Notes from the Nineties*) is being compiled as we speak. Matt anticipates sleeping at some point in summer 2016.

Susan Blackwell Ramsey '08 has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

Margaret Emma (Meg) Brandl '13 started her PhD in English with a Creative Writing concentration at Texas Tech University this past fall, where she taught two sections per semester of the freshman composition sequence and serves as an associate editor for *Iron Horse Literary Review*. In the past year she has also presented academic papers about cosplay and (what else) *Sailor Moon* at the Mechademia Conference on Asian Popular Cultures and the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference (respectively) and had a couple of prose poems appear online in *Hobart*. She was delighted to attend AWP in Minneapolis and run into so many of you lovely people. She will be teaching two themed English courses for the Duke TIP program this summer and is super ready to start teaching creative writing at TTU in the fall. You can follow her (mis)adventures on Twitter: @margaret_emma.

Tom Coyne '99 is currently hosting "The Wild Western Way" for BCN Productions. His new book, *A Course Called the Kingdom*, is

forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in 2015.

Tony D'Souza's '00 novel *Mule* will be adapted for the screen by *Banshee* co-creator David Schickler.

Renée E. D'Aoust '06 presented on two panels at AWP 2015 in Minneapolis and was an invited writer at the GetLit! Festival in Spokane, WA. Recent honors include a "Notable Essay" listing in *Best American Essays* and a broadside produced by Gazing Gain Press. Recent publications include *Assay*, *Festival Writer*, *Northwest Woodlands*, *Rain Taxi*, and *Triquarterly Review*. D'Aoust teaches online at Casper College and North Idaho College, volunteers for AWP's Writer-to-Writer program and as an Idaho Master Forest Steward, and lives in Idaho and Switzerland. Please visit [here](#).

Lisa De Niscia's '93 Whitepoint Press continues to release excellent new books.

Emily DiFilippo '10 has a new [blog](#).

Mary Marie Dixon '06 has published poems in several periodicals this past year. Her gallery show of visual art was featured by the Willa Cather Foundation Gallery from October until December 2014. She also had a gallery show in the local Winestyles in August of 2014. She presented a paper at the International Willa Cather Conference in spring of 2014. Check out her [website](#).

Jarret Haley '08 is now editor in chief of *Triton Magazine* at the University of California, San Diego. He is looking for writers to send assignments to both around the nation and around the world. He needs strong journalistic chops. You can [contact him](#) for more info.

Danna Ephland '06 lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is a Lincoln Center trained teaching-artist, offers quarterly writing

workshops called *The Left Margin* and hosts site-specific poetry readings. Her most recent work was a collaboration with print maker Vicki VanAmeyden. Her new chapbook *Needle Makes Tracks* will be published by The Dancing Girl Press in Chicago.

Dónal Kevin Gordon '96 has been the director of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Family Medicine Residency since early 2012. In addition, he continues to practice Family Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, and he remains an Assistant Clinical Professor at the nearby University of Iowa College of Medicine. In late 2014, Dónal was elected to the Board of Directors of the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. His most recent medical writing will appear in the 2015 and 2016 editions of *5-Minute Consult*, and he is an irregularly regular columnist for the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. Dónal continues to write poetry, and one of his poems was a winner in the 2014 Iowa City Poetry in Public competition, sharing that honor with the likes of Marvin Bell and Christopher Merrill. A newer poem will appear in the upcoming edition of *The Bend*. Dónal and Karen live in Solon, Iowa, not far from Iowa City, and they share a recent accomplishment: in 2014 the youngest of our five children became the first of our five children to finish college in four years and to get a job in his field of study. And the angels sing!

Emily Grecki '14 is now a proofreader and copyeditor at *Scholastic*.

Kelley Kerney '04 has a new novel, *Hard Red Spring*, coming in January 2016, from Viking Penguin.

Kimberly Koga '11 is currently working as a freelance writer and has pieces published in *_list and Grab the Lapels*. At &Now's recent conference at Cal Arts, she did a collaborative performance

for the Under the Imperfect Sun: A San Diego Community Occupation panel. She was recently appointed co-managing editor of 1913 Press.

Desmond Kon '09 authored two poetry collections in 2014: *I Didn't Know Mani Was A Conceptualist* (Math Paper Press) and *Sanctus Sanctus Dirgha Sanctus* (Red Wheelbarrow Books). Completed during his writing residency at Gardens by the Bay, his epistolary novel, *Singular Acts of Endearment*, was also jointly published by Squircle Line Press and Grey Sparrow Press. These three books were launched at the Singapore Writers Festival, where Desmond also edited *Eye/Feel/Write*, an ekphrastic project commissioned by the National Arts Council, in collaboration with the Singapore Art Museum. Individual poems and fiction were anthologised in *A Luxury We Cannot Afford*, *SingPoWriMo: The Anthology*, *Salted Vegetables and Duck Soup*, and *Starry Island: New Writing From Singapore*. In 2015, Desmond did readings at Artistry Cafe and BooksActually. Apart from being poetry editor at Kitaab.org, he is a writing mentor under the National Arts Council Mentor Access Project. He won the Beverly Hills International Book Award in two categories: Poetry and Visionary Fiction. His newest poetry collection is titled *The Wrong/Wrung Side of Love*, published by Glass Lyre Press and Squircle Line Press.

Evan Kuhlman's '04 novel *Great Ball of Light* is now available from Simon and Schuster.

Katie Lattari '13 currently works as a Research Analyst for the University of Maine's Office of University Development while doing some Creative Writing adjuncting on the side. She hopes one day to make teaching English at the college level her full-time career. Katie is currently working on revising and editing her novel manuscript *All of the Everything* -- which she wrote during her time as an MFA student at

