

# SO IT GOES...

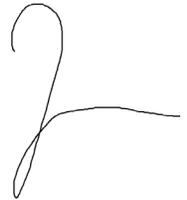
an annual publication of Notre Dame's Graduate Creative Writing Program for alumni and friends

## Director's Letter

Poets and writers have a strange relationship to time. As carbon-based lifeforms, our lifetimes do seem to progress in one direction, what we in the Western world call 'forward', with cells assembling and dying into new configurations, muscles and organs and cerebral fosse reshaping in response to damage and stimuli. On the other hand, it's our vocation to tinker with time, to build constructions of word, ink, pixels, and light which make time stop, turn back, fray, knot, re-entangle, leap ahead, smush into something that doesn't 'feel' humanoid at all.

So it's difficult to 'reflect' on the academic year 'behind us', a year which seems punctuated by outsize events of both the miraculous and dismaying variety. From the cavalcade of alumnae writers who opened our reading series this fall to the visits of **Claudia Rankine** and **Amitav Ghosh** this spring, from the immigration raids that marked this new year to the campus We Come from Everything reading which celebrated the shared experience of human migrancy this March. Events like these seems to suck time to them, time's tissues seem to grow enflamed around them, to swell and fold and propagate spectacular effects, let off spectral eructations. Such events never truly feel complete, or past. And then there's the less spectacular accruals that shape the tissue we humanoids exist in, from the rain that's fallen all winter to the buds still clinging with their eyes closed to the wet branches to the tidelets of kindnesses and aggressions which are how we organisms both feel and shape of the world around us.

This yearly newsletter is another way to make time still, seize up, repeat, skip on. Every performance discussed or text referred to herein opens up another entrant in the multiverse of artistic or literary time that is still active, still ongoing, still accruing or elapsing or collapsing or spinning on its axis or generating new times and climates. This is the true wonder of what writers and artists can do, what humans can do. It might be our least lethal gift.



## Readings & Events 2016-2017

Our visiting writers this year were Notre Dame family, world-renowned authors, and others who dare to rock the boat.



The start of the reading series was a triumphant homecoming. **Kelly Kerney, Courtney McDermott, Janet McNally, and Lindsay Starck**, all alumnae of Notre



Dame, returned on September 14, 2016 with a book or two under their belts. They were introduced by their mentors



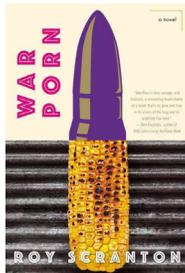
**Valerie Sayers and Steve Tomasula**, both of them swelling with love and pride. Kerney took the audience right



into her novel, *Hard Red Spring*,

presenting a "horrible, beautiful" portrait of Guatemala seen alongside a strained mother-daughter relationship. McNally followed up with another mother in her young adult novel *Girls in the Moon*, demonstrating her poetic sensibilities around the aftermath of a divorce. Starck read from *Noah's Wife*, filling the room with laughter both from her honesty regarding editor troubles and the surreal remix of an ancient tale. McDermott presented a story about a euthanizing vampire that was reviled by her old cohort and with every word her characters were brought to life.

**Roy Scranton** read from his debut novel *War Porn* on September 21. Though many believe the American public has escaped the repercussions of the Iraq War, Scranton argued that the support for a war on a pretext of lies changed the soul of the nation. Like a nesting doll, his reading began with the experience of being bombed endlessly, then he unveiled a poetic faux glorification of



war that mocked any action movie, and finished with aimless young American men who have their casual cruelty and misogyny unveiled by IEDs while driving a Humvee among their victims.

On October 4, Argentine writer **Samanta Schwebelin** was interviewed by Professor **Julio Ariza** from Dartmouth College and gave a performative reading in translation. From start to finish the Oak Room was jam-packed with students, their eyes and ears and minds wide open. Four of Schwebelin's stories were read, two of them translated to English and the other two read in Spanish. The stories in English were gut-wrenching and often uncomfortable. Schwebelin's stories are bold, disturbing, raw, and emotionally charged.

The Poet Laureate of the United States came to campus for two days. On October 5 **Juan Felipe Herrera** took the stage at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The reading started off with a creative enactment of *The Soap Factory*, performed by Notre Dame students including MFA candidates **Luis Lopez-Maldonado** and **Susanna Velarde**. Herrera read with

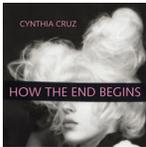
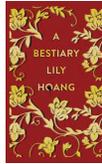


a seamless flow between English and Spanish, sometimes singing, sometimes dancing to bring everyone together. At the luncheon on the following day Herrera emphasized finding the joy in writing that is always present, even when the subject may be as dark as the 'ghost houses' of Sudan. He encouraged students to find the core that unites humanity and to write beyond cultural reality.



On October 12 **Danielle Dutton** read sections from her novel, *Margaret the First*, which follows the strange life of the extraordinary Margaret Cavendish. Dutton beautifully illustrated Margaret's connection with nature as a child, her growing thirst for fame and independence in her tumultuous teenage years, and writing of her life shortly after her marriage. Dutton channeled the emotions and 'singing' voice in Margaret's work, especially her poetry, to bridge three centuries between Margaret and current readers.

**Lily Hoang '06** returned to ND on November 2. She spoke fondly of her time in the MFA program a decade ago, thanking her peers and teachers who led her to the production of *A Bestiary*. Though Hoang insisted that the book was a collection of essays, it proved to be a much more complex affair that skated through genres and borders, between the intellectual and the emotional, math and lyric, autobiography and fairy tale. Through Hoang's understanding of the relationship between reality and literature, the story about hunting the white tiger, the two tigers that came before it, the dissolution of a traumatic relationship, anarchist alimony, and the ideal Vietnamese daughter all came together.



**Cynthia Cruz** arrived on November 16. MFA poetry candidate **Zachary Anderson** introduced Cruz to the audience, speaking of melancholia's relation to the luxurious and mesmerizing poetry in *How the End Begins*. It became clear that Zack was not exaggerating once

Cruz began to read, not only from *How the End Begins*, but also from an unpublished manuscript, *Hotel Prague*. Her reading captured the beauty that is inseparable from violence, the violence of a future that is merely a repetition of the brutality of the past. Cruz's new manuscript was vibrant as it demonstrated the struggle of existence, with multiple pieces titled "Fragment" addressing change, identity, and separating truth from lies.



The second Ernest Sandeen Memorial Reading was held on January 26, 2017. The memorial commemorates the poet, scholar, and teacher,

**Ernest Sandeen**. The traditional format for the event stipulates that a distinguished senior poet select a younger poet to read alongside them, thus honoring both Sandeen's poetry and his decades of mentorship at Notre Dame. In this spirit **Claudia Rankine** invited **Solmaz Sharif** to read with her.

The day started with a luncheon including MFA candidates, followed by an open Q&A session, and finished with a dazzling reading. The censor silences in Sharif's "Reaching Guantanamo" were as loud as the yells of the therapist in Rankine's "You are in the dark, in the car..." Sharif's usage of the small-capped military terms in *LOOK* revealed the military within the illusion of the tame, domestic America. Rankine's reading of *Citizen* brought the ignored, ingrown violence against African Americans to the fore, telling the story of Serena Williams to refute the denial of harassment and hatred. While their readings presented the bleak truth, their message was that of hope towards change. As Rankine said, "White people don't necessarily create white spaces."

**Kyle Muntz**, winner of the 2016 Sparks Prize, read on February 1. He began his reading from the start of *Effigies*, a piece influenced by the Japanese mecha anime *Evangelion* and a desire to depict hideous biological machine bodies on an immense scale. On building fictional worlds such as this, Muntz said the familiar becomes unfamiliar but has to be made normal again, reflecting how his writing disassembles then reconstructs with grotesque anatomical efficiency.



Visiting Uruguayan poets **Luis Bravo**, **Javier Etchevarren**, and **Virginia Lucas**

read on February 15. Each of them paired with a translator who matched their vibe. Bravo read with **Ben Heller** from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Etchevarren with **Jesse Lee Kercheval**, who translated the book he read from *Fable of an Inconsolable Man*, and the Creative Writing Program director **Joyelle McSweeney** teamed up with Lucas. Each reading had its own distinct style—Bravo's reading was a song to a different time, conjuring images of flowers, celestial bodies, and dragons, and the way he read in tandem or sometimes in unison with Heller was magical. Etchevarren's reading lived up to the title of his collection, combining childhood trauma with emotive gestures and spatial performance. Lucas's poems were full of music and a passionate repetition of sound.



On February 22 **Michael Collins '91** returned to read at his alma mater. He read selections from his newest novel that were both witty and dark in tone and then answered questions about computer engineering, writing, and running. Michael is truly a Renaissance man.

**Gregory Howard** read on March 8 and he shook the crowd with his tales of ghostly apparitions, children, and dogs. It was an intimate performance, one might even go so far as to call it a séance, peppered with just the right amount of humor and humanity.



**Hilary Plum** and **Zach Savich** arrived on March 22. Savich spoke of writing 'to say something

then move beyond it,' complicated by assuming the wrongness of what has been uttered and the desire to say it better. He satisfied his temptation to revisit *Diving Makes the Water Deep* through a new sequence of reading, speaking about poets and poetic shame that makes them apologize for poetry so quickly and ask for justification for things that clearly exist. Plum's novel, *They Dragged Them Through the Streets*, addressed her disappointment of the fury against the Iraq War failing to change anything, and the disconnect of the war from American soil. Her reading of *Watchfires* was a continuation of that line of thought, looking at the Boston Marathon bombers as creations of the body politic in America, terrorist attacks and responses as the autoimmune disease of Westernization. The harrowing reality of being agent and victim of your own destruction was laid bare.

**Amitav Ghosh** gave both a lecture and led an intimate discussion with students on the Anthropocene and the writer on April 4. Certain quotes by Ghosh stick out from the discussion:



"John Steinbeck might be the most influential American writer of the twentieth century" and "Realism is absurd." While these might be troubling times, writers such as Ghosh give us hope that the writer can make the world a better, or in the very least, a more aware place.

## Readings & Events 2016-2017

The fifth Annual Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam! was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, in the Snite Museum Auditorium. The reading began with an open mic at 5:00 PM followed by **Coleen Hoover** and her first attempt at emceeding the event. Her theme was “everybody have fun tonight.” There were two beach balls, knock-knock jokes, random thoughts, politics, relationships, dancing, and more. **Angelle Henderson** took first place, **Jesse Camper** second, and **Charles Terry** claimed a third-place recognition. This year the ND Slam Club pre-auditioned hopeful area poets, which really created a competition of the 10 best poets in our community. All available poetry slam videos can be found on YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_SpB8wMma4&list=PLAPb7jfPngLk-P1ya9CvPn3pN0JR62A5zs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_SpB8wMma4&list=PLAPb7jfPngLk-P1ya9CvPn3pN0JR62A5zs)).



**Rigoberto Gonzalez** arrived on April 19 for a discussion over lunch followed by a reception and reading in the evening. During the luncheon Gonzalez imparted words of wisdom and reflection regarding his beginnings as a published author, balancing the duties of teaching and writing, and mentoring but not controlling the younger generation of writers by having faith in the changes they make.

## MFA Reading Series 2016-2017

The end of September was the beginning of the MFA student reading series for the fall semester. Standing before an expectant audience at the Fischer Community Center on September 28, 2016 **Zachary Anderson** and **Chris Muravez** read excerpts of their poetry. Zack's poems were affairs of nature and landscapes captured from different lenses – sometimes manifesting as aerial photographs, sometimes like oil paintings. The highlight of his performance was, quite literally, pulled out of a hat. The sheets of paper he produced were each a prose poem that formed a larger mosaic. Chris read from his series involving the *Body Full of Hell* and his German prostitute girlfriend Ivy. The slight tremble in his confident voice amplified the power of his postcards from hell.

The second student reading event was on November 30. **Kelsey Castaneda** read a selection from her poetry thesis, the repetition and verbose nature creating a powerful act to follow. **Bailey Pittenger** read two different pieces of fiction both with their own unique quirks; however, both showed their larger concerns with language and the female body. **Sarah Snider** read a piece from her thesis manuscript that could only be described as a rebellion against Orthodox Judaism.

Christmas came early on December 7 when the third student reading event took place featuring: **Taeyin ChoGlueck**, **Luis Lopez-Maldonado**, and **Tania Sarfraz**. Taeyin read from her body of fiction work and made the crowd laugh, yet at the same time contemplate the issues of race and identity. Luis read a politically charged poem followed by a dance/interpretive performance that hushed the crowd. Perhaps the only proper way to end the event was a reading from Tania which also silenced the crowd as she explored themes of trauma and suffering.

The first student reading for 2017 was on March 1. It was an excellent display of the variety in writing produced by our MFA cohort. Safe from the sudden snowfall, **Thomson Guster**, **Erik-John Fuhrer**, **Ingabirano Nintunze**, and **Grace Polleys** each read excerpts from their recent work. Thomson read a selection from *THE CLONE SAGA*, his unique take on the Spiderman storyline of the same name,

## MFA Reading Series 2016-2017

featuring paranoia surrounding identity as character after character melt into one another. Erik read from his series of poems that slither into the human body and create animalistic tumors out of words. Gabi read the beginnings of an elaborate fantasy story about a town reconstructed in the aftermath of a war that emphasized her talents in world-building. Grace read poetry that refused to be pinned down telling stories that are distorted and heavily coded, as if processed through an artificial intelligence.

The second student reading of the year was on March 29. **Abigail Burns**, **Madison McCartha**, and **Daniel Tharp** were the stars of the evening. Abby read short pieces that ranged from seething in the face of ableism to bravado after being struck by a car, all of them oozing with her cynical wit. Madison initiated the unaware into the strange cadence of the Freakophone World, with his insidious monster that taunts and bullies with an authority that is called into question. Daniel brought some dirty realism to the table through an excerpt from his story about a father-killer drinking a cocktail of misfortune, as a videogame punctuates the dialogue.

The third MFA reading featuring **Moonseok Choi**, **Daniel Uncapher**, and **Jean Yoon** was held on April 12. Moonseok began the reading with poems citing topics from Trump to curry to K-pop. Daniel read from his creative non-fiction piece about the real Yoknapatawpha, which focused not on one topic, but ran the gambit in a tour de force. Jean performed her poetry with her unique voice and perspective.

### MFA Thesis Reading

The semester ended with the MFA Thesis Reading on April 30 featuring second-year MFA candidates **Zachary Anderson**, **Kelsey Castaneda**, **Taeyin ChoGlueck**, **Thomson Guster**, **Luis Lopez-Maldonado**, **Christopher Muravez**, **Bailey Pittenger**, **Tania Sarfraz**, and **Sarah Snider**. This event showcased how diverse, unique, and talented this group of graduating writers is. Our graduating students presented readings that addressed a number of issues that are important in our society today: sizeism, feminism and womanhood, military trauma, the environment and our relationship to it, LGBTQ realities, mental health, and violence in its many forms.

## Current Students Writing

**Zack Anderson** published poems and essays in *Entropy*, *Smoking Glue Gun*, and *Deluge*, as well as book reviews in *Notre Dame Review* and *Kenyon Review*. He has been working on a translation of French-Romanian poet Linda Maria Baros' collection *The A4 Autoroute*, with generous notes from the author, and took on a position as a staff writer for *American Microreviews and Interviews*. Zack attended the Graduate Translation Conference at the University of Texas at Dallas in May, after which he continues westward with the tumbleweeds.

**Abby Burns** has had the privilege of working with South Bend's LGBTQ Center, continuing Matt Pelkey's ImagineND program, reading for the *Notre Dame Review*, and helping **Steve Tomasula** put the finishing touches on his forthcoming anthology *Here&Now*. She enjoyed participating in a panel on art and resistance along with **Bailey Pittenger**, **Gabi Nintunze**, **Jean Yoon**, and others. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Entropy*, *(b)OINK zine*, *Microfiction Monday*, and *Longridge Review*.

**Moonseok Choi** wrote a number of poems, blogs for the MFA reading series, passive-aggressive work emails, and sordid details of his routine on social media. He submitted his work to a few contests

and applied for internships. He hung out with and helped other MFA students both within and outside his responsibilities as the creative writing office assistant. Now he prepares to teach non-children human beings for the first time in his life.

**Thomson Guster's** recent work includes *THE CLONE SAGA*, a distorted adaptation of the oft-derided Spider-Man storyline of the same name that explores the empty paranoia of identity, the portability of content across genres and platforms, and the limits of fan fiction; *HEAT MAP #10*, a zine of fictional music writing composed by blind evolutionary logic that amplifies mere snags in the infostream into waveforms that threaten to crash their mode; *Op*, a series of poems that explore the possibilities for self-expression under deep cover; and *Crunch Time*, a collection of fight scenes that experiment with duration, intensity, choreography, and the limits of the visual in a textual medium.

**Erik-John Fuhrer** passed his comprehensive exams and continues to work on his poetry—the-soon-to-no-longer-be-the-lone-PhD-MFA-hybrid in the cohort.

**Luis Lopez-Maldonado** spent last summer in New York City as the 2016 Sparks Summer Internship recipient. In his second year at Notre Dame, he was able to continue working with Ballet Folklórico Azul y Oro, with the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, and with the St. Joseph County Juvenile Justice Center. He published multiple times during the fall and spring semester, which included *ROAR*, *Foglifter*, *The Packinghouse Review*, and the *Poetry Foundation*, among others. During his last year at Notre Dame, Luis completed a full-length manuscript of poetry, and a couple of chapbooks as well. In the near future, he plans to earn a PhD, find a home for his first book of poetry, and be a puppy owner!

**Madison McCartha** continues to work on his poetry and his voice, or is it his Freakophone?

**Chris Muravez** doesn't know how to do a lot of things. He kills time by blocking out the sun. He eats. Those who know him are probably wrong. There is a mole on his neck. Recent publications include a post-election Facebook rant, some poems in *Emerge Literary Journal* (for which he was paid a handsome \$4.50), and surpassing the 100 tweet milestone.

**Ingabirano Nintunez** made her public theatre debut as an actress at the Vortex Repertory Theatre in Austin, Texas, while working as a production assistant at a boutique video production agency, and has gained further theatre experience here at Notre Dame, with a stint on stage as well as in playwriting workshops. When she's not writing words, she likes writing music to go along with them. Her current work explores magic in the mundane, belief systems, the restructuring of Judeo-Christian and folkloric archetypes, the politics of naming, and meditations on grief and desire.

**Bailey Pittenger** continues to teach and write. In March she collaborated with the local nonprofit, Lit Literary Collective, to create and manage an Art as Resistance event at LangLab, which she hopes will continue to bring together an inclusive community of local art activists. She also served as managing editor of *Re:Visions* and *The Bend*, was awarded the Kaneb Center Graduate Student Teaching Award 2016-2017, received a Katharine Bakeless Nason Scholarship from the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference 2017 for her fiction manuscript, and published prose in *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *Entropy*, and elsewhere. In the fall she will be attending the University of Denver for a PhD in English with a concentration in Creative Writing.

**Daniel Tharp** came to Notre Dame to write. Mission in progress. He also wrote "Thomas McGonigle: A Lineage of Literary Intimidations," an essay which was featured as the lead in the June edition of *Hollins Critic*.

**Daniel Uncapher** is still contending with the post-election order, with an essay on the experience in *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equality and Diversity*. His recent work is most interested in social conspiracy, American whiteness, and the relationship between art and the intelligence community.

**Jean Yoon**, outside of her writing and her fellowship with Action Books, had her work published in *Open Letters Monthly* and the *Hypocrite Reader* and has work forthcoming in *Unsplendid*. She spoke and ran a workshop as part of a panel on "Art As Resistance" with colleagues and local artists, gave a creative lecture at the biennial Gender Studies conference at ND, and planned another lecture and workshop presented at the Allied Media Conference in June.



**Johannes Göransson** read poetry together with the Swedish poets Elisabeth Berchtold and Aase Berg in Bucharest. He gave talks on translation in places as different as Estonia and Oakland, CA. He co-translated with Don Mee Choi and **JiYoon Lee '12**, Kim Yideum's *Cheer Up Femme Fatale* which is currently a finalist for Best Translated Book Award. *Black Ocean* just published his translation of Aase Berg's most recent book, *Hackers*, and will publish his translation of *Sense Violence* by another young Swedish poet Helena Boberg next year. *Black Square Editions* will publish his translation of Ann Jäderlund's seminal 1989 book, *Som en gång varit äng* (*Which once had been meadow*). He is currently putting the finishing touches on his critical book, *Transgressive Circulation*, which will be published later this year.



**Valerie Sayers** published two new stories: "Tidal Wave" appeared in *Image 90*, Fall 2016, and "Company" in *Commonweal*, July 8, 2016. She discovered that her birthday had been mentioned on the *Writer's Almanac* (American Public Radio) after receiving an inordinate number of birthday greetings. In March she helped kick off the "Women Writers of South

Carolina" series, pairing an established and emerging writer and sponsored by the Pat Conroy Literary Center, at St. Helena Library, St. Helena Island, SC, with "Valerie Sayers in Conversation with Bren McClain." With **Joyelle McSweeney**, she inaugurated an undergraduate "Creative Writing in Ireland" course over the summer. During the fall semester, she taught fiction writing at the Westville Education Initiative, Westville Correctional Facility, her most challenging and satisfying teaching experience to date.



**Roy Scranton** gave the following talks: "Arctic Ghosts: Ecoliterary the Death Spiral" at the Environment Forum, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; "Humanities in the Late Anthropocene" at Cerritos College, Norwalk, CA; and "The Post-apocalyptic Archive: Humanities in the Late Anthropocene," the keynote for "Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene: A Colloquium," New York University, New York, NY. He read at the Arkansas Literary Festival and participated at a PUBLIC BOOKS reading at Housing Works in NYC in May. Finally, he is co-editing with Torie Bosch an anthology for Unnamed Press called *What Future* that will collect the best long-

form journalism and essays written in 2016 that address a wide range of topics crucial to our future, from the environment and politics to human health, animal rights, technology, and the economy.



**Steve Tomasula** has been in France for the release of the translation of his novel, but he has also published and participated in a great many things. Some news (a couple of pubs, readings, a lecture and some exhibitions): “Ars [telomeres] longa, vita [telomeres] brevis: Edunia & The Natural History of an Enigma” in *Experimentalism* (Special Issue of *ASAP/Journal*) 1.2 (2016) Jonathan Eburne and Judith Roof eds. John Hopkins University Press, “The Atlas of Man (If by Man We Also Mean Woman)” in *Narrating Life: Experiments with Human and Animal Bodies in Literature, Science, and Art*. Elisabeth Friis, Stefan Herbrechter, Cristina Iuli, eds. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2016, Reading from *Once Human* at University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. February 4, 2016, FC2 Fiction Reading “Adventures in Communication” at PYO Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. March 31, 2016, *TOC: A New-Media Novel* and *VAS: An Opera in Flatland* in “Shapeshifting Texts: An Exhibition about Electronic and Experimental Literature” at Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek, Lernraum, Universität Bremen, Germany. November 3-5, 2016, *TOC: A New-Media Novel* in “Are We Global Yet” exhibition at Anderson Gallery, Drake University, Des Moines. November 13, 2015 – February 12, 2016, Reading from *Once Human: Stories* at the Bergen Public Library, Bergen Norway. April 29, 2017, “The Book of Nature as Media in the Novels of Steve Tomasula” at Université Paris 8, Paris, France, April 17, 2017. (participant), and Lectures du monde Anglophone, Member, Comité scientifique de L’ERAC Équipe de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Aires Culturelles, Unité de recherche de la Faculté des Lettres de l’Université de Rouen, Rouen, France.



**Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi** in December *GRANTA* published her short story “The Cleanse” from a collection in progress. In April she delivered a series of craft talks and readings via the Black Mountain Institute, an International Literary Center sponsored by the Nevada Humanities Grant, which took her to the University of Nevada’s Las Vegas and Reno campuses. These events were followed by a reading at Iowa City’s Music and Literature Festival. Earlier in the year she was awarded a fellowship through Writers OMI at Ledig House, an International Arts Center in upstate New York, where she will be in residence in May 2017. Additionally, Azareen will be delivering a lecture titled “Reading Across Time: Literature as Metaphysical Insurrection” followed by a reading from her forthcoming novel at Cambridge University on May 10, sponsored by the English Department’s ‘Theory, Criticism, and Culture’ seminar. In June she will be teaching a week long seminar on the subject at Naropa University’s Summer Writing Program.



**AWP Report**

Overwhelming is the single best word to describe the 2017 AWP Conference & Book fair, which took place from February 9 to 11. The grand gathering of writers was held in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, which looked like it could store the Reagan National Airport with room to spare. There was a panel for everyone in every time slot, from readings by or about celebrated authors or presses to discussions on style, genre, or subject to conversations locating social justice within writing and teaching. The book fair was just as fantastic, with a wide variety of contemporary and experimental books plus a chance to meet the writers behind them. It was an affirming experience to be surrounded by people invested in literature, and to meet long lost alumni and future Notre Dame MFA hopefuls.

**Emeriti Faculty News**



**Sonia Gernes** continues to teach literature as a volunteer at Forever Learning Institute and finds her mature students delightful. She is also delighted at all the publications of her former students.



**John Matthias** has published three books this year. His new volume of poems, *Complayntes for Doctor Neuro*, and his book of essays and memoirs, *At Large*, were published by Shearsman Books. His experimental collaboration with printmaker Jean Dibble and critic

**Robert Archambeau**, *Revolutions*, was published by Dos Madres. He continues as Editor-At-Large of *Notre Dame Review*.



**William O'Rourke** introduced two writers in this year’s CW readings series, **Thomas McGonigle**, the winner of the *Notre Dame Review* Book Prize in the fall, and **Michael Collins** in the spring. Both are available on the program’s YouTube site. He continues to publish commentary on the *Huffington Post* site <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/william-o> and one of those was published in the *South Bend Tribune*, November 23, 2016. He published two pieces in the *Irish Times* twice, one on Michael Collins, the other defending himself from the slings and arrows of Irish crime writers, both in March of 2017. This link will get you to the two articles: <http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/william-o-rourke-i-m-not-bothered-by-the-success-of-others-1.3020014>. O’Rourke continues as Editor Emeritus of the *Notre Dame Review*. His essay “Making Poverty More Bearable” appeared in the Summer/Fall 2016 issue, Number 42. One more thing: William participated in John Matthias’s reading at Holy Cross College on April 3, 2017, taking on Voice 2 in a Matthias play/poem.



**Poetry**

- Patricia Hartland, Hampshire College, BA, 2014; University of Iowa, MFA, 2017
- Shinan Lavinia Xu, Ohio State University, BS, 2016
- Anne Malin Ringwalt, Emerson College, BFA, 2017
- Jacob Schepers, Calvin College, BA, 2012; SUNY at Buffalo, MA, 2014
- Kimberly Swendson, University of Colorado, BA, 2016

**Prose**

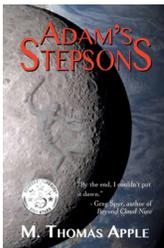
- Christina Leo, Louisiana State University, BA, 2015
- Jake McCabe, Pratt Institute, BFA, 2017
- Jac Smith, California State University Long Beach, BA, 2012
- Joseph Thomas, Arcadia University, BA, 2014

**Welcome to ND!**



MATRICULATION

**Mathew Apple '97** writes that his family and he have had a busy writing year: another academic edited work (*L2 Selves and*



*Motivations in Asian Contexts*), a book of short stories and poems, *Notes from the Nineties*, and, finally, a science fiction novelette *Adam's Stepsons*. Erina (7) just finished 1st grade and Emily (5) started kindergarten. Etsuko also managed to survive her first year in a doctoral program on language policies at Kyoto University. Various other activities (piano lessons, swim school, Girl Scouts) also began. Somehow he still blogs about it all (<http://mthomasapple.com>) while unsuccessfully avoiding political ranting online (#Resist).

**Jackson Bliss '07** earned his MA and PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from USC, where he worked with TC Boyle, Aimee Bender, and Viet Thanh Nguyen on his racial bildungsroman and love story, *Ninjas of My Greater Self*. Jackson was the first runner-up for the *Poets & Writers* 2012 California Exchange Award in fiction. His short stories and essays have appeared recently in *Antioch Review*, *Guernica*, *Ploughshares*, *Kenyon Review*, *Fiction*, *Witness*, *Santa Monica Review*, *Boston Review*, *Tin House Online*, *Quarterly West*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Arts & Letters*, *Joyland*, *Pleiades*, *Fiction International*, *Notre Dame Review*, *2012-2013 Anthology of APIA Literature*, *African American Review*, *Kartika Review*, *Hobart*, *Quarter After Eight*, *Connecticut Review*, *Stand (UK)*, *3:AM Magazine*, *The Good Men Project*, *The Daily Dot*, and the *Huffington Post UK*, among others. He was a panelist for the 2016 Mixed Remixed Festival of hapa fiction writers. Jackson teaches creative writing, literature, and rhetoric at the University of California Irvine and CSUN.

**Margaret Emma (Meg) Brandl '13** is now ABD in the English-Creative Writing PhD at

Texas Tech University. She passed her qualifying exams (in contemporary American prose, hybrid literature, and translation studies) in December and has been hard at work on her three-novella dissertation. This year she was awarded the George T. Prigmore Scholarship and selected as a Texas Tech TEACH Fellow, which granted her access to a professional development program for graduate students committed to teaching. She has continued to serve as an associate editor for *Iron Horse Literary Review* and had some flash prose published this year in *Cartridge Lit* and *CHEAP POP*. By the end of the summer she will have presented an essay at Texas Tech's Sowell Collection Conference, participated in workshops at the Graduate Translation Conference, and taught a third year for Duke TIP. Say hey on twitter (no, really!): @margaret\_emma.

**Dawn Comer Burns '98**

relates that in June of 2016 she moved back to Indiana with her children Lucy (9) and Elliot (12), to start a new life in an old farmhouse on family land. In October Dawn finished writing *Evangelina Everyday*, the thematic novel she'd been at work on for several years. Back in early 2016, she was bracing for what felt like the end of her world. Now in early 2017, she knows that the world, her life, just goes on and on and on, and she marvels that her children and herself have never been better supported or better loved by so many people in so many ways. She is so thankful. These days she chooses—every day—to do what she loves. She writes stories. She teaches. She collects and shares Beautiful Things and other people's stories. Dawn fosters creative community, builds forts in the woods with children, watches the sun rise, every morning, over the field to the east of her house. Quite honestly, she's never been happier. For more details about her work, including her writing, *The 42 Beautiful Things Project*,



SwampFire Retreat for Writers and Artists, and *Unmeasured Words*, visit her at [www.dawnburns42.com](http://www.dawnburns42.com) and follow her on Facebook. And by all means, send a Beautiful Thing from your world to hers at *The 42 Beautiful Things Project*, PO Box 42, Larwill IN 46764.

**Tom Coyne '99** recently received tenure and promotion to associate professor of English at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He also just received a teaching faculty merit award from SJU. This fall he wrote a cover story for *Links Magazine*, and he has new work coming out in *Legends Magazine* and will have features and a regular column coming out in *The Golfer's Journal*. His next book, *A Course Called the Kingdom*, is finished and will be released in 2018 from Simon & Schuster. He'll be on sabbatical spring of 2018 to start work on the next one.

**Renée E. D'Aoust '06**

continues to teach and write from southern Switzerland. Recent publications and honors: an essay in *Rooted, An Anthology of Arboreal Nonfiction*, her seventh "Notable" listing from Best American Essays, and an essay named "One of 2016's Most Transformative Essays" by Sundress. D'Aoust was a visiting writer at Lebanon Valley College, and this summer she will be a fellow at an NEH Summer Institute, City/Nature: Urban Environmental Humanities. D'Aoust is the managing editor of *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies* (send her your pedagogical work!), and she is a Writer to Writer mentor for AWP. D'Aoust and fellow ND alumnae **Beth Couture '07** recently published an open letter of protest in *The Turnip Trucks*.



**Ailbhe Darcy '11** has just completed her first academic year teaching creative writing at Cardiff University, where she also helps run the Cardiff Poetry Experiment reading series. This year her work was featured in

the *Wake Forest Series of Irish Poetry* and she published a book in collaboration with SJ Fowler called *Subcritical Tests*. She'll teach at the ND Creative Writing summer school in Ireland, and can't wait.



**Jeanne De Vita '00** is the developmental editor for Waterhouse Press, a boutique

publisher and home to several NYT best-selling authors. She finally started a website and blog to support her private editing clients and has been teaching romance writing classes at a romantic bookstore in Culver City, California, called The Ripped Bodice. A short piece Jeanne wrote is being included in a staged theatrical performance in Chicago and she continues to publish genre fiction under a pen name while trying to fit in time for her own novels. Jeanne lives in Los Angeles and is actually starting to like it. [Geniebook.wordpress.net](http://Geniebook.wordpress.net) and [waterhousepress.com](http://waterhousepress.com).

**Mary Marie Dixon '00** recently published her poem and collage art piece "Blessed Ossana" in the *Remembered Arts Journal*, 2017.



**Stephane Dunn '00** has been quoted in articles for NBC News concerning some hot Hollywood films, such as *Get Out* and *Hidden Figures*, and has also personally met Jordan Peele—pictures to prove it!



**Kristen Eliason '08** and her husband Karl moved from San Francisco to Salt Lake City and bought

their first house close to where they both grew up. They were expecting their first baby around April 20 and were thrilled to welcome Kaden a few days earlier. 6

Kristen is working in communications for a small software company in “Silicon Slopes” and is finishing a full-length manuscript of her chapbook, “Yours.”

**Danna Ephland '06** has just arrived home from a reading where she finally launched her chapbook, *Needle Makes Tracks*. She was happy to let *Needle* off the page and into a room full of poets and poetry fans. She has two chapbooks: *A Small Acrylic Frame* (2015-Celery City Chapbooks) and *Needle Makes Tracks* (2016-dancing girl press). She is eager to get onto her next project and is really loving the chapbook format.

It has been eleven years since Danna graduated from the Creative Writing program. Where did the time go? It went to the evil adjunct-contingent-part-time teaching ghetto—semester after semester, campus after campus, until one particularly crazy semester she said, Enough! and got a job at Beer and Skittles, a craft beer store here in Kalamazoo. One of the good things to come out of all that teaching was meeting other faculty members. She met Vicki VanAmeyden, printmaker and exquisite corpse fan, and collaborated on a print series for a large show with many area artists and poets. Danna has been teaching indie writing workshops at Kazoo Books, the local bookstore, for several years now. The Left Margin offers bi-weekly classes where community members can come to write and read and talk about poetry together. She is forever grateful for Maureen Seaton showing her the way. Danna's recurrent ovarian cancer is being held at bay by an experimental drug and amazing teams here at the West Michigan Cancer Center, and at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago more recently. She knits for her sanity and health, last fall knitting many fuchsia “pussy hats” for friends to wear for the Women's March in Washington, DC and in Chicago. Her son Sam is 25, a drummer and graphic designer. This August she will celebrate 20 years living in Kalamazoo, Michigan, a very nurturing place for artists.

Come and visit the Kalamazoo Poetry Festival and look her up! <http://kalamazoopoetryfestival.com/2017-festival/>

**David Ewald '03** will host a reading event at The Bird and Beckett Bookshop in San Francisco as part of *Eclectica Magazine's* celebration of 20 years online this summer. Contributor **Stuart Ross '03** will take part in the reading. *Eclectica Magazine's* first non-fiction anthology, arranged and edited by Ewald, was published in print December 2016.

**Kimberly Koga '11** in January 2016 went back to school to a web development bootcamp for 4 months. Then she had an internship, a contract job, a job, a contract job, and starting January 2017 a job with a local web development company called Zesty.io. She builds websites for clients using the Zesty.io platform, XML, HTML, Less, CSS, JavaScript, and JQuery. She's just getting back into writing lately which is where the core of herself will always be—after having been away for many years—and it's glorious. She's just starting on a project with fellow alum **Lindsay Herko '12**, as well as writing a long poem called “girlgirl,” and some creative nonfiction pieces.

**Brian Lysholm '08** Roberta and Brian Lysholm have been married for seven years now. They live in DeLand, FL, in an old craftsman they've gutted and slowly rebuilt by themselves. He's picked up carpentry, plumbing, roofing, tiling, electrical work, and a shed full of tools. As all homeowners say in perpetuity, they're almost done. They've taken a break lately to focus their love and hard work on their daughter, Elliot, who is now 5 months old. She is joyful and kind and very patient with them as they figure out how to be parents. For years Brian worked in a local high school as the IB English and creative writing teacher while doing adjunct work in the evenings. This fall he was hired in a full-time position at Daytona State College. He absolutely loves the college and the work he's doing: composition

and research courses, literature courses, and advising a creative writing club. He's most excited about the time for his own writing that this career move affords him. He took several years off from writing, really writing; he's glad to be at it again.

**Mark Marino '96** has been consumed by the world of Fake News, teaching a satirical course in it (<https://medium.com/the-fake-news-reader>). Since Fake News and Reality TV go hand-in-hand, he found himself in the grip of *The Hills* celebs Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag, the main characters of an interactive spy adventure called *Baby Seals* (<https://store.onsequel.com/#/channels/155>). As if that wasn't hot enough, he launched a dating site for 5-gendered microorganisms: Thermophiles in Love (<http://markcmarino.com/til/>). He continues to write *Mrs. Wobbles and the Tangerine House* with his children. The latest interactive tale, *Switcheroo*, was just translated into Spanish.



**Janet McNally '05** in September Janet visited ND for a reading with fellow alums **Kelly Kerney**, **Lindsay Starck**, and **Courtney McDermott** (and had so much fun). Janet's first novel, *Girls in the Moon*, came out in November, and will be translated into five other languages (it's already out in Italy). She's been recommended for tenure and promotion to associate professor at Canisius College (just waiting on the president's letter) and her kids continue to get older (which is what you want): Juno is six and Daphne and Luella are four.

**Tom Miller '06** is an emergency medicine resident at the University of Wisconsin Hospital. After numerous delays, Simon & Schuster will bring out his alternate history/fantasy novel, *The Philosopher's Son*, as a lead title in spring of 2018 with the sequel

*The Philosopher's War* to follow a few months later. He lives in Madison, WI with his wife, Abby, and sons, Owen and Eddie.

**Steve Owen '13** is currently in the third year of the PhD program at University of Utah, where he's also teaching creative writing workshops and intermediate composition.



**Melanie (Cotter) Page '10** is happily teaching at Holy Cross College across the street from Notre Dame, which is really fortunate because beloved

Nick is so happy in his position as Manager of Classroom Technology for the Mendoza College of Business. In February Holy Cross College put together a creative writing festival. Melanie, along with two colleagues, read some of her work, including “The Girl Scout,” “Battle in the Suburbs,” and “The Big Tent.” Attendees of the reading claimed she was “charming” and had them “crying one minute and laughing the next.” Such flattery has reminded her of why she writes (it's the attention, not the art, I'm sure) and will be revising more of her short fiction pieces in preparation for publication. In March her proposal to do an interactive presentation on giving students feedback on papers during conferences in lieu of written comments was accepted for the 18th Annual Midwest Scholarship of Teaching and Learning on April 7 at Indiana University-South Bend. Recently, she began a few hobbies that give her anxiety attacks all the time, including Tai Chi and playing violin in the Niles Orchestra. The crafty Br. George Klawitter of Holy Cross College was already an orchestra member and told her “now you are, too,” so she went to a rehearsal. She had not played her violin since 2004, back when she attempted to be a music major, failed miserably, and swore off her instrument like a bad boyfriend. The first concert is in one month. Finally, Melanie hopes you're still a fan of Grab

the Lapels, her all-ladies book review blog. It's been going strong for almost four years, which in blog years is ancient. If you are reading this, write creatively, and identify as a woman, please consider partaking in the Meet the Writer series. Information can be found at [grabthelapels.com](http://grabthelapels.com) under the FAQ tab.

**Matt Pelkey '16** has three publications to report: *Entropy* (<https://entropymag.org/the-rocket-ship/>), *Liars' League NYC* (<http://www.liarsleagueuenc.com/youre-going-to-be-totally-fine-by-matt-pelkey/>), and *The Summerset Review* (<http://www.summersetreview.org/17spring/physical.html>).

**Stuart Ross '03** lives in Chicago with his wife, Betsy Ross, who is widely credited with making the first American flag. Stuart's first novel is forthcoming from Eye-wear Publishing in fall 2017. His recent work has appeared or is forthcoming in *BULL*, *DIAGRAM*, *Eclectica*, *Funhouse*, *HTML Giant*, *Pioneertown*, *The Awl*, *The Fanzine*, *The Stockholm Review of Literature*, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, and other places.

**Sarah E. Roth '15** is currently adjunct faculty at University of South Florida. In the fall she's headed to Johns Hopkins University to begin a PhD in Cultural Anthropology. This year Sarah attended a residency at VCCA, and her writing was published in *Entropy* and *Hot Metal Bridge*.



**Jayme Russell '14** has two chapbooks forthcoming in 2017: *PINKification* (Dancing Girl Press) and *PINKpoems* (Adjunct Press). Recently her writing has been included in *Smoking Glue Gun*, *Luna Luna*, *The Matador Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *Diagram*. She has posted on Brevity's Nonfiction Blog and written book reviews for *Heavy Feather Review* and *The Fanzine*. Her erasures were chosen by *The*

*Fairy Tale Review* for the magazine's website relaunch. She and **Jace Brittain '15** have started the website [permadeathplease.com](http://permadeathplease.com), where they write about books and other miscellaneous things. She leads a writing workshop for junior high students who love exquisite corpses. As a children's librarian, she teaches toddlers through eighth graders about books and has coordinated many book-related events. She co-coordinated a Peace Day, in which junior high students wrote and presented their future hopes for global peace and human rights. In the summer she will co-teach a writing, bookmaking, and puppeteering summer camp. In her free time, she attempts to stay sane by practicing Vinyasa Flow and working on arm balances and inversions.

**Cyndy Searfoss '95** is still making a living with words, hers and



other people's. Her day job as director of education and collaborative partnerships at the Hospice Foundation in Mishawaka includes developing classes and programs on end-of-life planning as well as presenting them. In February she was part of the faculty for a one-credit Notre Dame course offered by the Ruth M. Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care in Medicine called "Intro to Hospice and Palliative Care."

One of the highlights of her job has been working on "Road to Hope," a documentary that follows the lives of orphaned children who helped care for their dying parents in Sub-Saharan Africa. She co-wrote the screenplay with Mike Wargo, the foundation's COO. The same week the ND course was offered, the foundation learned that "Road to Hope" received Best Documentary Feature (bronze), Best Screenplay Documentary, (bronze) and Best (Dis)Ability Film Award (bronze) from the Global Independent Film Awards. The documentary has been on the film festival circuit for about a year and received Grand Jury

Prize from the Amsterdam Film Festival, Award of Excellence from the Accolade Global Film Festival, Grand Prize Documentary from the Marina del Rey Film Festival, Best Documentary and Grand Jury Best Documentary from the Hollywood Florida Film Festival, and Best Documentary from the Moscow Film Festival.

She continues to teach as an adjunct at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in the English and Professional Writing programs and at Purdue University. She also works with masters and doctoral students on editing/proof-reading theses and dissertations.

Cyndy's oldest son is a freshman at IU Bloomington, majoring in Journalism—an interesting major in our interesting times. Her youngest son is a freshman at Adams High School. She says, "They keep me sane while occasionally driving me insane."

**Sami Schalk '10** has accepted a new position as assistant professor of Gender and Women's Studies at University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her first academic monograph, *Bodyminds Reimagined: (Dis)ability, Race, and Gender in Black Women's Speculative Fiction* will be published with Duke University Press in spring 2018. Sami has also recently had articles appear in *Journal of Popular Culture and Children's Literature*. She has new articles forthcoming in *African American Review* and *Palimpsest*.

**Mike Smith '01** is director of the Honors Program at Delta State University. He has published three collections of poetry and two works of translation. His version of Goethe's *Faust* was published by Shearsman Books in 2012 and he is co-editor of the anthology, *The Mint's Invitation: Contemporary Chinese Short-Shorts in Translation*, forthcoming from Columbia University Press in the fall of 2017. He lives in Cleveland, Mississippi, but you can visit him anytime at [mike-smithmultiverse.wordpress.com](http://mike-smithmultiverse.wordpress.com).

**Lindsay Stark '10** completed her

doctoral degree in Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill in August 2017. She is currently an assistant professor of English at Augsburg College, where she also teaches and co-directs the low-residency MFA program. She's hard at work on her second novel, which—unlike *Noah's Wife*—will have nothing to do with rain.

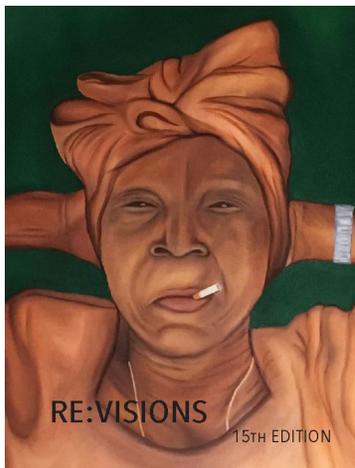
**Marcela Sulak's '92** fourth book-length translation of poetry, "The Selected Poems of Orit Gidali: Twenty Girls to Envy Me" (University of Texas Press), was nominated for the 2017 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. She's co-edited the Rose Metal Press title, *Family Resemblance: An Anthology and Exploration of 8 Hybrid Literary Genres*, which won the Gold Medal in the Writing Category of Foreword Review's INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards, and was short-listed for the Eric Hoffer Awards Grand Prize and first runner-up in the Eric Hoffer Awards.

**Christine Texeira's '14** short fiction "How to Breathe Without Thinking About It" was published on *Tin House's Open Bar*.

**Peter Twal '14** will probably hang around Lafayette, IN for another year or so while his partner Erin finishes up her PhD in Rhetoric and Composition at Purdue University. In the meantime, he works with the Engineering Computer Network at Purdue University as a systems engineer. This past year Peter's poetry made its way into *Best New Poets 2016*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *Third Coast*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Quarterly West*, *cream city review*, *RHINO*, *DIAGRAM*, and elsewhere. He even has a website now—[petertwal.com](http://petertwal.com)—where you can read a handful of the pieces mentioned above and others from his current manuscript *Like a Sales Force into the Night*.



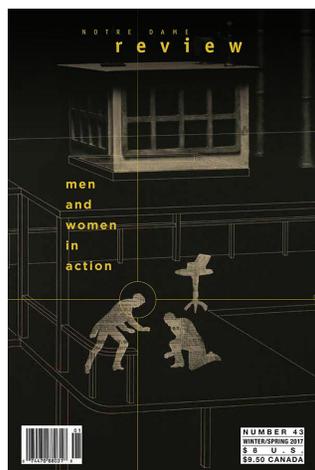




The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of *Re:VISIONS* led by managing editor **Bailey Pittinger** with assistant editors **Zachary Anderson, Abigail Burns, Thomson Guster, Ingrabriano Nintunze, Sarah Snider, and Daniel Uncapher** including the undergraduate editorial skills of **Laura Gruszka** and **Joe Kuhns** came out in time to close the academic school year. Editions are available to read online at: <http://english.nd.edu/assets/239143/revisions2017.pdf>. Many thanks to all of the contributors and to the wonderful editorial staff.

In 2017 no edition of *The Bend* was published.

Dear Alums — we promise and hope you too will promise to send samples of your writings for future editions! We simply can't publish without you.



The *Notre Dame Review* Winter/Spring 2017 Number 43 entitled *men and women in action* included a short review by **Abigail Burns** on *The Miles Between Me*, a poem by the 2017 Sandeen Prize winning poet, **Robert Gibb**, and a poem from alumna **Jayne Marek '05**.



Issue Number 44 Summer/ Fall 2017, *Making Things Fit*, features a review on Jeffrey Toobin's *American Heiress: The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst* by emeritus **William O'Rourke**. Additionally, **Luis Lopez-Maldonado** interviews past United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

## 2017 - 2018 Reading & Events

### Fall

Johannes Göransson  
September 13

Christina Pugh  
September 27

Kellie Wells  
Dec 6

### Spring

Jeff VanderMeer  
April 25

MFA Thesis Reading  
May TBA

Robert Gibb, Sandeen  
Prize Winner, 2017 TBA

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

Program Director:  
Joyelle McSweeney

Writers: Daniel Tharp and Moonseok Choi  
Editor: Coleen J. Hoover

Creative Writing Program / Department of English  
University of Notre Dame 356 O'Shaughnessy Hall  
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5639 574-631-7526  
CreativeWriting@ND.edu  
<http://english.nd.edu/creative-writing/>