

So It Goes...

Letter from Director

Yo dawg, I heard you like English? Or as *The Onion* once put it, “what’s totally fresh about Shakespeare is that he ...



had the tightest flow in the history of the English language. His iambic pentameter couldn’t be touched by the other MCs, although player-haters think he sampled heavily from Ben Jonson.” That’s how we like to think of this newsletter—

meticulously compiled, as always, by Coleen Hoover—part of the flow that keeps all of you in the mix. Enjoy, and think of it as the annual Christmas letter from your extended Creative Writing Family.

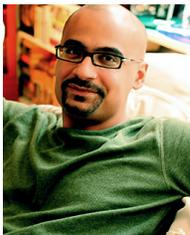
Visiting Writers 2009 - 2010

Steve Tomasula

Have we EVER had so many readings?! If we give a reading, and another, and another, yet one more, will they come? 21 readings (plus 11 Lula’s totals 33) for the academic year! Over half of the readings were given in the Hammes Bookstore, which continues to promote the fruits of our labors.

The fall 2009 began with a September **Alicia Ostriker** reading from *For the Love of God*. She is an American poet with twelve volumes of poetry, and as a critic the author of two pathbreaking volumes on women’s poetry. She has also published three books on the Bible. Amen, to that.

Ostriker was followed in October by **Junot Díaz** who hopped off the plane and went directly to a pizza party with the MFA stu-



dents. He or his reputation filled the Decio Mainstage Theatre in DPAC later the same evening. Díaz’s reading from *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* was much anticipated and the students were not disappointed with his intellect, engagement, performance and attitude. Yo, brother.

David Marriott came in mid-October to lecture and read from his first book of poetry *Incognegro*. He currently teaches at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The month ended with **Paul Muldoon** reading from his poetry collection *The End of the Poem* at McKenna



Hall and performing with his band of merry men AKA Rackett at Legends. He offered people pleasing song-like poems according to one student reviewer. Muldoon has lived in the United

States since 1987, where he is now Howard G. B. Clark ’21 Professor at Princeton University and Chair of the Peter B. Lewis Center for the Arts.

David Matlin opened the month of November reading from *It Might Do Well With Strawberries*, an unwavering account of the collision of violence and imagination in the American culture gone awry. He is a professor at San Diego State University and teaches in the MFA Creative Writing Program.

The semester closed with poets **Christine Hume** and **Jeff Clark**. Hume’s work has been translated into German, Dutch, and Slovenian. She has lived in sixteen different states and countries and currently teaches in the interdisciplinary Creative Writing Program at Eastern Michigan University. Clark’s first book, *The Little Door Slides Back*, won the National Poetry Series Award, and

his second collection *Music and Suicide* received the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. They were a dynamic duo with daughter Juna contributing to the family ambiance.

Then spring 2010 sprung. Opening the semester was poet and English professor **Henry Weinfield** reading

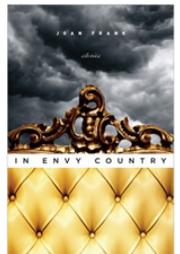
from his most recent collection of poetry *Without Mythologies: New and Selected Poems and Translations*.

One month later poet and English professor **Jacque Brogan** read. She is the author of several collections of poetry, including her latest work *ta(l)king eyes*, a book-length experimental poem.

The 2009 Sparks Prize winner **Mike Valente** cleared his throat and dusted off his prize winning “Pinto Bean” story in mid-February.

Orlando Menes closed the month reading from his new book of translations, *My Heart Flooded with Water: Selected Poems by Alfonsina Storni*. Bien hecho, professor.

The 2009 Richard Sullivan Prize winner, **Joan Frank**, began the month of March. She read from



her prize winning collection of short stories *In Envy Country*. Ooo la la! That woman was BORN to read, a wonderful voice. Every April is designated as National Poetry Month. Where’s the prose? Well, have no fear: Prose was given official recognition with a Prose Tag Team reading in the bookstore in mid-March consisting of MFA student

volunteers: **Emily DiFilippo, R. Jess Lavolette, Lindsay Starck, Elijah Park,** and alumnus **Kristen Eliason**. The readers displayed a wide variety of approaches to writing from traditional narrative to experimental prose.

March concluded with Cuban-American **Ricardo Pau-Llosa** poet, pioneer art critic of Latin American art in the US and Europe, and author of short fiction. ¿Hay más? Sí hay.

Columbian born poet **Maurice Kilwein Guevara** read from his body of poetry, fiction and plays in mid-April. He is Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, where he teaches in the MA and PhD Programs in Creative Writing as well as in the Latino Studies Program. He was captivating. The official April National Poetry month of reading poems was celebrated by emeritus **Sonia Gernes** along with current students: **Ailbhe Darcy, Iris Law, C.J. Waterman, Monica Mody, Jennifer Stockdale, Kimberly Koga** and alumnus **Kristen Eliason**. We called it a Poetry tag team. There was plenty of bloodless action.

Professors **Joyelle McSweeney** and **Johannes Göransson** hosted a panel on the legacy of modernism on small press publishing on April 23. The panel also included: **Matvei Yankelevich**, founder of Ugly Duckling Press and translator and editor of *Today I Wrote Nothing: The Selected Writings of Daniil Kharms*, and co-translator of *Oberiu: An Anthology of Russian Absurdism*; and **Sandra Doller**, co-founder of 1913 press, author of *Oriflamme*, and professor at Cal State San Marcos. The editors discussed the dynamic legacy of Italian and Russian Futurist publishing, print making, typography, and design on contemporary small press publishing in America. The invited presses reflected divergent yet complementary takes on Futurist models since they publish in a wide range of formats and materials, from letterpress broadsides to artists' books and chapbooks to glossy journals, perfect-bound volumes and online magazines.

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Conferences

There were three conferences over the academic year. Two occurred in March and one in April. The first was a third, i.e. the Women Writers Festival III which featured **Lorrie Moore, Lolita Hernandez** and **Frances Hwang**. Lorrie Moore, author of, most recently, *A Gate at the Stairs*, which was named one of 2009's five best works of fiction by the *New York Times Book Review* read the opening night to a completely packed auditorium. Lolita Hernandez, author of *Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories From the Cadillac Plant*, which won a 2005 PEN Beyond Margins Award and fiction writer Frances Hwang, author of *Transparency*, which received the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and a PEN/Beyond Margins Award read together on the second night. Once again, judging by attendance, the University and local community demonstrated enthusiastically wide support in recognizing the guest authors.



The following week the second conference was the first conference ever organized to recognize Notre Dame's own family of poets: The Open Light: A Celebration of Notre Dame Poets. The family included: **Francisco Aragón**, author of, *Puerta del Sol* and editor of *The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry*; **Robert Archambeau**, author of *Laureates and Heretics*; **Kimberly Blaeser**, author of *Stories Migrating Home*; **Jenny Bouilly**, author of *The Book of Beginnings and Endings*; **Jacque Brogan**, author of *Damage*, **Cornelius Eady**, author of seven books of poetry including *Brutal Imagination*; **Beth Ann Fennelly**, author of *Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother*; **Mary Hawley** who has been a part of Chicago's poetry community for the past twenty years. She is the author of one book of poetry, *Double Tongues* and co-translated a bilingual poetry anthology, *Astillas de Luz/Shards of Light*; **Joyelle McSweeney**, author of *Nylund, the Sarcographer* and *Flet*; **Orlando Menes**, author of *Furia*; **Henry Weinfield**, author of *Without Mythologies: New and Selected Poems and Translations*; and **John Wilkinson**, author of *Effigies Against the Light* and *Contrivances*. We only offer a peek at the many publications all of the above writers have generated.

The last conference of the academic year was called: Black Nature: 400 Years of African American Nature Poetry. The conference featured Cave Canem poets in an afternoon panel presentation and an evening reading at Legends. The poets included: **Ruth Ellen Kocher, Gregory Pardlo, Evie Shockley, E. Ethelbert Miller,** and **Cornelius Eady**.



Local Readings

The current MFA student body continues to leave standing room only at the Wednesday night readings in Lula's Café. Do we credit the intros or the readings or perhaps both for the record crowds? The class of 2010 certainly had a way with words. As is our custom, second-year students who read in the fall semester, in order of appearance, included: **Daniel Citro, Ryan Downey, Monica Mody, Jen Penkethman, Donny Cowan, Melanie Page, Emily DiFilippo, Iris Law, Tasha Matsumoto, Lindsay Starck, Elijah Park, and Sami Schalk.** The spring semester, in order of appearance, offered: **Ruth Martini, Courtney McDermott, Ailbhe Darcy, EddieJoe Cherbono, Kimberly Koga, Jen Stockdale, C.J. Waterman, Elizabeth Franklin, Levi Sanchez, Ryan Sanford Smith, R. Jess Lavollette and Amy Marie Thomas.**

Not only do the students rock the house, they rock the local reading community with their connections and efforts in keeping in touch/tuned with outstanding writers. In late-ish September 2010, **Tasha Matsumoto** hosted poets **Kate Greenstreet** and **Carrie Olivia Adams** who gave a Sunday Salon-style reading at her loft in downtown South Bend. Then in November Matsumoto hosted a prose reading by MFA alumnus, **Lily Hoang.** Additionally in November, **Tasha Matsumoto** and **Lindsay Starck** moderated a Notre Dame Literary Festival panel that featured **Frank Delaney, Tom Coyne, and Emily Giffin.**

First year students **C.J. Waterman** and **Kimberly Koga** organized and hosted two poetry readings and receptions in late April. They brought **Matvei Yankelevich, Sandra Doller, and Ben Doller** to Waterman's apartment for an informal intimate reading. They followed this party by organizing a poetry reading featuring **Zachary Schomburg** and **Johannes Göransson** on campus. Amazing efforts, eh? The writing community humbly sez, "thanks!"

MFA Final Thesis Reading

April 30th featured a brief writing selection from each member of the graduating class of 2010 including: **Daniel Citro, Donald Cowan, Emily DiFilippo, Ryan Downey, Iris Law, Tasha Matsumoto, Monica Mody, Melanie Page, Elijah Park, Jennifer Penkethman, Samantha Schalk, and Lindsay Starck.** The event was held in the LaFortune Ballroom with a capacity crowd of students (graduates and undergraduates), faculty, family and friends who came to listen and congratulate one of Notre Dame's finest. Love and miss you all.

Activities

We proudly announce further impressive student involvement in the local community. Almost half of the currently enrolled MFA graduate candidates participated as volunteers in the Creative Writing Program's

ongoing writing workshop at the South Bend Center for the Homeless, which met weekly at the Homeless Center. Student organizers (**Ryan Downey** and **Sami Schalk**, fall; **Jennifer Stockdale**, spring) organized the rotating workshop leader position, which gives MFA students practical, hands-on experience in teaching a community workshop and the opportunity to consider different theoretical approaches to teaching creative writing and partnership with the poor. The MFA students attended an initial training session and then met with residents on a weekly basis, writing the same exercises as their homeless partners and they facilitated a reading of all the work produced. Again this year, residents of the center came to campus to perform at the fourth annual reading by residents of the CFH. Stockdale, with input from Downey, organized the second publication of writing from the group entitled, *Words from the Center.* **Valerie Sayers** continues to serve as the faculty adviser, offering the students an opportunity to discuss their planned exercises in advance and to provide feedback on their leadership of the sessions. This writing group is a powerful affirmation of Notre Dame's commitment to the community and a good opportunity for the graduate students to experience alternative teaching possibilities.

At the Juvenile Justice Center: **Samantha Schalk, C.J. Waterman, and Ryan Downey** were the facilitators/coordinators for 2009/2010 writing workshops.

They worked with 16 different young men in classes throughout the year. They collected the resident's work in an anthology, *Words of the Forgotten Writing from the Inside*, and hosted the residents on-campus for a public reading of their work. The anthology was generously funded by a grant from ISLA. Their efforts were documented by television station WNDU and by the *Community Connections* a newsletter from the Office of Public Affairs and Communications. This bridging of the town and gown serves as a catalyst for positive exchange for all involved.

In addition to the Center for the Homeless and the Juvenile Correctional Facility, Downey, Matsumoto, and Schalk contributed to the South Bend and Notre Dame community in other ways, too. They helped several other MFA students to facilitate the first annual Violence Prevention Initiative writing workshop in conjunction with the Gender Relations Center, which was open to faculty, staff, students and community members.

Additional praise goes to **Sami Schalk, Tasha Matsumoto, and Lindsay Starck** in recognition of leading a summer writing workshop series at Saint Margaret's House in downtown South Bend for women in poverty. Schalk also performed at the Violence Prevention Initiative Speak-Out and organized an on campus "Love Your Body Day"



open mic (also for the Gender Relations Center) during the 2008/2009 school year. In March, 2010 **Matsumoto** led the Violence Prevention Initiative's "A Time to Write" Workshop where participants discussed readings, wrote, and shared their work. **Ryan Downey, Elijah Park, Jen Stockdale, C.J. Waterman, Levi Sanchez, Elizabeth Franklin, Iris Law, Sami Schalk, Monica Mody, and Courtney McDermott** helped facilitate various small groups.

The program continues to support an MFA presence at Riley High School in the English writing classes of **Linda Antonazzi**. All four grade levels from the high school participated in readings, question and answer sessions and writing exercises for three one day class meetings with our students: **Iris Law, Ruth Martini, Courtney McDermott, Jennifer Stockdale, R. Jess Lavolette and Monica Mody**.



Intellectual Life Committee

Monica Mody read an excerpt from her thesis "Kala Pani" called "Unsustainability as a Mandate for Aesthetics/Genre/Form/Language/Media/Performance/Audience: A Gentle Reading," for the Intellectual Life Committee panel on ecocriticism in February. She was the sole MFA participant this past year.



Awards

Mitchell Award for Outstanding Achievement: **Tasha Matsumoto**
 Kaneb Center's Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award for Excellence in Teaching: **Jennifer Penkethman**
 Sparks Post-Graduate Fellowship: **Monica Mody**, judged by Shelley Jackson
 Sparks Summer Internships:
Ruth Martini (Park Literary Group)
Levi Sanchez (Hachette Book Group)
 Hammon Africana Studies Book Award for Community Spirit and Service: **Samantha Schalk** [for the second year in a row!]



The Bend number 7 came out in late April thanks to the moxie of coeditors: **Kim Koga, C.J. Waterman, EddieJoe Cherbono and Levi Sanchez**. Other current contributors to the edition in design, layout and editing included: **Donald Cowan, Elijah Park, Tasha Matsumoto, and Jen Penkethman**. Other current and alumni contributors were: **Cyndi Vander-Ven, Desmond Kon, Emily DiFilippo, Jessica English, Stephanie White, Jeanne deVita, Cyndy Searfoss, Jessica Maich, Jen Stockdale, Dónal Gordon, Melanie Page, Sami Schalk, Francisco Aragón, Shannon Doyne, Danna Ephland, Corey Madsen, R. Jess Lavolette, William McGee Jr., Jared Randall, Renée D'Aoust, Grant Osborn, Lisa De Niscia, Sheheryar Sheikh, Sarah Bowman, Amy De Betta, Elizabeth Smith-Meyer, Alicia Guarracino, Iris Law and Donald Cowan**. It was truly a prize winning look and work of art. Copies of this edition are available via the program website. Hopefully dear readers, you'll consider sending in a submission next year and thanks to all who contributed.



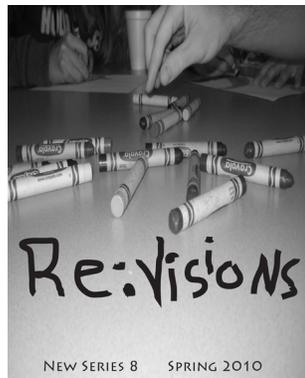
Re:Visions also arrived in late April with thanks and appreciation for the timely efforts and success of the editorial board including: **Courtney McDermott, Jen Stockdale, C.J. Waterman** and **Kim Koga** along with assistant undergraduate editors **Chris Antonacci, Stephanie Lee and Alex Kilpatrick**. The *Re:Visions* New Series 8 Spring 2010 is also available to read on the program's website.

Our busy students

Daniel Citro had a chapbook, *Just Now the Wallop*, published by Mud Luscious Press in April 2010. While at Notre Dame he taught freshman composition for Notre Dame, 2008-2009, and at Indiana University at South Bend, 2010. He presented a paper at The End? Conference on poetry at Indiana University Bloomington, 2010. He also delivered a paper on Harry Smith and the Poetics of Failure at "Post Moot," a Convocation on Poetry and Poetry Practices at Miami Univer-

sity Ohio, 2010. He was accepted into the PhD program in creative writing at the University of Georgia.

EddieJoe Cherbono had a short story, "The Sound of String," accepted at The End? Graduate Student Conference at Indiana University. He presented his paper on March 27, 2010. An excerpt from *Boats and Barrow* was published in the *Violence Prevention*



Initiative Journal and he read at Speak Out during the Violence Prevention Initiative Festival on April 28, 2010.

Ailbhe Darcy published poems in *Salamander* and *London Magazine*, and had poetry featured in two Bloodaxe Books anthologies: *Voice Recognition: 21 Poets for the 21st Century*, edited by James Byrne and Claire Pollard, and *Identity Parade: British and Irish Poets*, edited by Roddy Lumsden. She launched a chapbook-length collection of her poetry, *A Fictional Dress*, published by tall-lighthouse press, with a reading in London. She published reviews of new collections by Daniel Simko, Peter Sirt, Vona Groarke and Andrew Zawacki in *The Critical Flame*, *The Stinging Fly*, and *Reconfigurations*, and presented a paper at the Open Light conference at Notre Dame. She participated in the Artpost

Our busy students cont...

Poetry Marathon in South Bend.

Emily DiFilippo published a short fiction piece in the spring 2010 issue of *Natural Bridge*. She kept busy at Notre Dame by teaching Beginning Spanish II, 2008-2010, worked as a Writing Center tutor, 2008-2010 and she tutored with ND Upward Bound in the summer of 2009.

Ryan Downey has a chapbook entitled *This is the Fall Line* due out from Mud Luscious Press in November 2010. He has recently concluded his term(s) as co-coordinator/facilitator of writing workshops at the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility and at the South Bend Center for the Homeless. He has delivered papers and presented on panels at the 2010 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Post Moot: a 2nd Convocation of Unorthodox Cultural and Poetic Practices, Gender Place and Space: An Interdisciplinary Conference, and The Open Light: a Celebration of Notre Dame Poets. He has also received co-nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Graduate Student Award and the John W. Gardner Student Leadership Award at the University. He has a review of Lisa Samuels' *Tomorrowland* forthcoming in *Jacket*. In his second year at Notre Dame, Downey was the managing editor of *Community Connections*, the newsletter from the Office of Public Affairs and Communication of the University of Notre Dame. His work has been published in *Lamination Colony*, *Kulture Vulture*, *elimae*, *Sawbuck* and in the anthology *30 under 30*. An e-chap, *Poems From a News Ticker*, was published by Scantly Clad Press in 2009.

Kim Koga published a poem in *1913: a journal of forms* issue number 4, April 2010. She had three poems accepted for publication in *Vibrant Gray*, 2010.

Iris Law published the following poems: "Rachel Carson," *A Face to Meet*

the Faces, forthcoming Anthology; "Periodicity," in *LUMINA* (Vol. IX); "Maria Mitchell," "Field Notes: Lichen Morphology," *The Bend*; "Bones," "Spare the Air Day," "Airport, T-Minus Four Hours," *Writers Connect*; "Walking Home with Groceries," "on being far away in January," *Asia Writes*; "Stoichiometry" in *Kartika Review* (Issue 6 - Fall 2009). She presented her paper "Reflections on Francisco Aragón's Madrid: The Postcolonial Subject as American Expatriate" at The Open Light: A Celebration of Notre Dame Poets Conference (Notre Dame, March 29, 2010). She was nominated for Best New Poets 2010 by the creative writing program. She was awarded Best of the Net Anthology 2009 for "Circumnavigation," which originally appeared in *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*. Additional honors include the "Editor Spotlight: Iris Law," April 19, 2010, interview at Harriet, the Poetry Foundation Blog and she was a finalist for the Milton Postgraduate Fellowship at IMAGE & Seattle Pacific University. She is the editor of *Lantern Review: A Journal of Asian American Poetry*.

Ruth Martini taught Introduction to College Writing at Ivy Tech in Elkhart.

Tasha Matsumoto published a creative non-fiction essay "Obachan" in the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of the *Kartika Review*. Her creative non-fiction essay "Emma Bee" is forthcoming in the Spring 2010 issue of *Ninth Letter*. She has flash fiction forthcoming in the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of *Quarterly West* and in the 2011 issue of *Pank*. Her short story "Portman-teau" is forthcoming in Volume 5 of *Marginalia*. She received a fellowship to attend the University of Utah's PhD program in creative writing.

Courtney McDermott was a Finalist for the Orlando Prize for Short Fiction, A Room of Her Own Foundation, May 2010. She published a children's story, "The Worth of a Chicken," in *Highlights Magazine*, 2010. She was

awarded the Striving for Excellence in Teaching Award from Kaneb Center, Spring 2010, and the Library Liaison Grant by ISLA, Spring 2010. She was nominated for Iron Horse Discovered Voices 2010 Awards in nonfiction and for the AWP Intro to Journals Project 2010 in fiction by the program. She taught Introduction to Fiction Writing, University Notre Dame, Spring 2010 and English Composition I, Ivy Tech Community College, Spring 2010.

Monica Mody had work published in *LIES/ISLE*, *Cannot Exist*, *Wasafiri*, *Pratilipi*, and was featured in the *Poetry with Prakriti* Anthology. She delivered papers and presented on panels at post _ moot: a 2nd convocation of unorthodox cultural and poetic practices, and The End?, Indiana University Annual Graduate Conference. She is the recipient of the 2010 Nicholas Sparks Prize.

Melanie Page's publications included "To Fake a Marriage," in *The Bend*, April 2010; "Tiny Poet Artist," in *Danse Macabre*, November 2009; "Sliced Holiday," in *Glossolalia*, August 2009; "Read w/Feat: The Story of Romi & Girls's Armies," Leaf Garden Press May 2009; and "Grandpa," in *Squid Quarterly*, Volume 1/Issue 1, Summer 2009. She presented an excerpt from "Let the Cat Drive" at the 2009 &NOW festival. While an MFA student she taught two sections of Basic Writing at Indiana University at South Bend and three sections of introduction to literature at Saint Mary's College. Post-graduation she will continue to teach at both institutions.

Samantha Schalk presented "Villainous Victims and Victimized Villains: Disability in Wuthering Heights" as part of the Notre Dame Disability Studies Forum Visiting Lecture Series in September 2009; "Female in the City: A Working Feminist Poetics of Embodied Female Experience" as part of the Notre Dame Gender Studies Program Research Forum in Novem-

ber 2009; “Taking Feminine Practices into Masculine Space: Creative Writing in a Boys’ Juvenile Correctional Facility” with Ryan Downey at the Gender, Place and Space Conference in March 2010; “Writing on the Margins: Community Outreach in Shelters and Correctional Facilities” as part of a panel at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Denver, CO., April 2010; and “bell hooks’ Loving Politics in Relation to Disability and Self-Love” at the Society for Disability Studies Conference in Philadelphia, PA., June 2010. She will attend Indiana University for a PhD in Gender Studies on a Graduate Scholars Fellowship.

Jen Penkethman presented a paper, “First-Person Science,” at the &NOW festival of experimental literature at SUNY Buffalo, October 2009.

Faculty news

Cornelius Eady had poetry readings at the following locations in 2010: Drew University, Vanderbilt University, Valparaiso University, Woodstock Writers Festival, Notre Dame Poetry Festival, KGB Bar, New York City, AWP in Denver, Geffen Center, LA, and the Chicago Public Library. He was featured at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in Denver on a panel on Memoir and a panel with Cave Canem on first books. His poem “Emmett Till’s Glass Top Casket” appeared in the April 5, 2010 issue of *The New Yorker*. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY in May 2010. He also organized and hosted a one day conference “Black Nature: 400 years of African American Nature Poetry” at Notre Dame on April 26 which featured Cave Canem poets including: Ruth Ellen Kocher, E. Ethelbert Miller, Gregory Pardlo and Evie Shockley.

Joyelle McSweeney was on the steering committee of Notre Dame’s new interdisciplinary Global Modernisms

Initiative, a collaboration among the departments of English, German and Russian, Romance Languages, and the PhD in Literature. This spring, she hosted a panel on the legacy of Italian and Russian Futurism on contemporary U.S. publishing, featuring guest editors from California and New York. Her press Action Books published *Killing Kanoko* by Hiromi Itō, translated by Jeffrey Angles, the first English-language volume by this celebrated Japanese poet, as well as *The Morning News is Exciting*, a debut collection by poet and translator Don Mee Choi. She delivered readings and papers at the Minneapolis Book Fest and other venues and published creative work in *Jubilat*, *Fairy Tale Review*, and other journals as well as in the anthology *Starting Today: 100 Poems for the Obama’s First 100 Days*. Critical work has appeared in *The Boston Review*, *American Book Review*, *Rain Taxi*, and Duke University’s *boundary2*. New critical and creative work is forthcoming in such anthologies as *Poets on Teaching* and *My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales*. McSweeney continues to serve as a contributing editor for *The Writer’s Chronicle*, journal of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs.

Orlando Ricardo Menes’s poems “Courtyard of Clotheslines, Angel Hill,” “Windfall Antiques,” and “Tía Gladys, Backroom Seamstress” appeared in *West Branch*, vol. 66. His translations of Alfonsina Storni’s “Autumn,” “Storm and Men,” and “Prophecy” also appeared in the *American Poetry Review*, vol. 39, no. 2. Two more Storni translations, “Silent March” and “Plea to Prometheus” (from *My Heart Flooded with Water: Selected Poems by Alfonsina Storni*) were chosen by *Poetry Daily* (www.poems.com) as the poems for January 15, 2010. He participated in the panels “Cuba: The Whole Island” and “A New Paradigm (Critical Theory)” at the American Literary Translators Association 32nd Annual Confer-

ence in Pasadena, California, between November 11-14, 2009. He planned and organized The Open Light: A Celebration of Poets from Notre Dame, a conference held on campus March 29-31, 2010.

William O’Rourke During the 2009-2010 school year, William O’Rourke continued to post his weekly opinion column for *NUVO*, Indianapolis’s alternate weekly newspaper, at <http://www.nuvo.net/AuthorArchives?author=1178323>, and he was a contributor to the *American Book Review’s* “Top 40 Bad Books” feature, Jan/Feb ’10, with the selection, “Ending Badly,” on *An American Tragedy*. He is currently working on the sequel to his 1981 novel, *Idle Hands*, titled *The Devil’s Workshop*.

Valerie Sayers, professor of English, signed a contract with Northwestern University for the release of uniform softcover editions of her five novels: *Due East*, *How I Got Him Back*, *Who Do You Love*, *The Distance Between Us*, and *Brain Fever*. New short stories appeared in *Commonweal* and *Booth*, and she published several reviews in *The Washington Post* and *Commonweal*. Her essay on Simon Dinerstein’s painting, “The Fulbright Triptych,” is forthcoming in a collection, also called *The Fulbright Triptych*, from Milkweed Editions. She conducted a week-long fiction seminar at the Glen Workshop, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, where she also presented a lecture to the MFA students of Seattle Pacific University, in summer residence at St. John’s. She coordinated the 2010 Women Writers Festival, featuring Lorrie Moore, Frances Hwang, and Lolita Hernandez, and continued to serve as faculty advisor and member of the Creative Writing Program’s weekly writing group at the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Steve Tomasula published the following books: *VAS: An Opera in Flatland*, *the Cyborg Edition* (book and audio

Faculty news cont...

CD); and *The &NOW Awards: The Best Innovative Writing*, Introduction and editor with Robert Archambeau and Davis Schneiderman. He published the following short fictions: "The Kingdom's Good" in *The Fairytales Review*. The Aquamarine Issue, 2009; and "Medieval Land" in *Not Normal, Illinois*, Michael Martone, editor. He published the following essays: "Emergence and Posthuman Narrative" in *Flusser Studies: A Multilingual Journal for Cultural and Media Theory*. Spring 2010; "Remembering Raymond Federman," in *American Book Review*. Vol. 31, No. 1; "War of the Words" in *American Book Review*; and "(Gene)sis" in *Eduardo Kac, Histoire naturelle de l'Énigme*, Martin Richet trans. Paris: Éditions Al Dante, 2009. He gave these readings from his fiction at: the Museum of Contemporary Art—Denver (Sponsored by

Mandorla), Denver; IN(TER)VENTIONS: Literary Practice at the Edge: A Gathering, The Banff Centre in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada; &NOW: A Festival of Innovative Art and Literature, SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Observatoire de la Littérature Américaine (ODELA), Institut d'Anglais Charles V, Paris, France, and at Shakespeare & Company, Paris, France. He presented an invited lecture, "The Shifting Role of the Author" at Objets textuels non identifiés (OTNI), at Université Paris Diderot, Université Paris 8 Vincennes à Saint-Denis, Paris, France. He presented the following papers: "Memory as Forgetting," AWP Annual Conference, Denver; "What is Reading Today?" at IN(TER)VENTIONS: Literary Practice at the Edge: A Gathering (of Canadian and U.S. authors), The Banff Centre in Banff National Park, Alber-

ta, Canada; "Cut Culture: Innovative Collaboration for the Digital Age" at &NOW: A Festival of Innovative Art & Literature, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. He was also awarded a Howard Fellowship. His novel *TOC: A New-Media Novel* was awarded The Mary Shelly Award for Outstanding Fictional Work.

John Wilkinson was awarded a PhD by the University of Cambridge for his published work. He published poems in *The Cambridge Literary Review* and *Penumbra* and in the web journal *Spine*. He published critical work in *Textual Practice*, *Chicago Review*, *Critical Inquiry*, *Glossator* and *The Salt Companion to John James*. This summer Salt will reissue his 1994 *Flung Clear* with an introduction by Keston Sutherland.

Emeriti faculty news

Sonia Gernes is still: a) working on her novel, b) doing volunteer teaching and legal aid work, c) reading voraciously, including work by former students, and d) traveling when she can afford it. One of her poems, "Golden" was read by Garrison Keillor on the *Writer's Almanac* in October 2009.

John Matthias published two new books *Trigons*, Shearsman, 2010 and *Five American Poets*, Carcanet, 2010. He had poems published in *Salmagundi*, *Parnassus*, *Cambridge Literary Review*, and *Pleiades*. He read at the Notre Dame London Program and organized and led a memorial conference on the poetry and scholarship of Goran Printz-Pahlson, Clare Hall, Cambridge.

Jackson Bliss ('07) married the lovely Erica Borbor in May and honeymooned in Japan. Jackson is a PhD student in Literature and Creative Writing at USC, working with TC Boyle and Aimee Bender. His writing blog has moved to: www.bluemo-saicme.blogspot.com. He published

But, the really big news is waving good bye and sending best wishes to **Cornelius Eady** who will now be a professor of English and Miller Family Endowed Chair at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and to **John Wilkinson** and his lovely wife Maud Ellman who will also take up a new residence. They move to the University of Chicago. FYI: John's new title: Professor of Practice of the Arts in The Committee on Creative Writing, the Department of English, and the College gives him broad license to practice great abandon. Our program will miss their many talents, including their humor and wit.



Alumni reports pubs & personal...

Matthew Apple ('97) officially joined the Kongozen Sohanzan Shorinji Sokai at the rank of Sho-doshi. In other words, he is now registered as a Japanese zen monk.

Robert Archambeau ('96) writes that his new book of literary criticism, *Laureates and Heretics*, has a big chapter on John Matthias.

Shannon Berry ('05) has just completed the course work for her PhD in Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America, and is pre-

paring for her exams and beginning preliminary work on her dissertation. Meanwhile, she teaches a course on environmentalism and religion in the university writing program at George Washington University and an introductory theology course at CUA. She has also been collaborating with two composers, John Maggi and Sarah Horrick. Her lyrics have appeared in Mr. Maggi's musical, *This is Not My Life*, which was performed in the Capital Fringe Festival in July 2009. Ms. Horrick has set two of Shannon's poems, "Ephethetha, That is to be Opened" and "Solitude" as art songs, both of which premiered in spring 2010.

Alumni reports pubs & personal cont...

most recently in *Notre Dame Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Fiction* and *Quarterly West*.

Sarah Bowman ('00) and **Mark Matson** ('98) announced the birth of Rose Marie (Rosie) Bowman-Matson born on August 11, 2009. She joins big brother, Niall, who is 4 years old and doggies Jack and Rocky (12). Mark writes, "In December 2009, Sarah resigned from the City Colleges of Chicago Department of English and joined Dan and Lys Burden to Co-Found the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute- a non profit training center in Port Townsend, WA, focused on helping cities and towns become more walkable, bicycle friendly, sustainable, socially engaging and welcoming places by improving the built form, http://www.sfu.ca/lidcvan/web/flash/city_apr21_10/. Although Sarah loved being tenured and teaching English and Writing at the City Colleges, the Urban Design/Planning field provides greater teaching opportunities, plus the green lifestyle of the Pacific NW is a great match! Mark is a stay-at-home-dad to the kiddies and one of these days, he and Sarah will begin writing poetry again. In the meantime, life is fully wonderful! Wishing everyone else the best as well."



Brenna Casey ('08) writes that she is "currently the director of communications and marketing for a student travel company, called Putney student travel (www.goputney.com). I travel frequently, focusing on programming in South America, plan the creative writing curricula for our summer trip (which includes National Geographic student expeditions (www.ngstudent-expeditions.com)), and because I now live in rural Vermont, snowshoe on my lunch hour. I continue to write on the side and had a piece of nonfiction in *Post Road* in the spring."

Tim Chilcote ('07) and **Colby Davis**

('07) send a news update via Tim who wrote, "Colby is an AdWords Account Strategist at Google. I am a Web Content Administrator at the University of Michigan. We both serve as adjunct composition instructors at Adrian college. I also do pro-bono work for Jarrett's [Haley] magazine [*BULL: Fiction for Thinking Men*], and Colby has been focused on publishing her poems in a variety of journals. She recently received an honorable mention in *Current Magazine's* 2010 poetry contest."



Michael Collins ('91) Weidenfield & Nicolson published Collins' latest novel, *Midnight in a Perfect Life*, April 2010. He is now a professor at Southwestern Michigan Community College, Dowagiac, MI.

Dawn Comer ('98) Over the past year, Dawn Comer had her video essay "Walking the Lane" published online at Vellum Relic, and her short story "Raised in a Corn Palace" published in *MidAmerica*. She won the 2009 Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature (SSML) for "Fella With an Umbrella: Finding Joy on the Autism Spectrum" which will be published in the upcoming *MidAmerica*. At SSML's 2010 Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars and Writers, Dawn presented "Dam Parties, Fish Dreams, and Swamp-Fire: Facebook Fragments from a Full Life." In the past year Dawn also was interviewed for an article in the local newspaper, gave a public reading at the local library, was a guest speaker at a writer's group that meets in a nursing home (and so had to be very selective about what she read), led a fiction workshop in Lansing as part of the HerStories series, and began carving stories into clay with artist-collaborator Steve Smith. She teaches creative writing part-time at Defiance College, edits occasionally, and has

started writing freelance articles for the college magazine. She is also co-hosting the third annual SwampFire Retreat for Writers and Artists this summer at an Indiana farmhouse out in the middle of, well, Indiana. Somehow, for all her talk about not having enough creative space, she has managed to have a really productive year without having to cut back on swimming with her daughter Lucy or looking for fairies with her son Elliot.

Beth Couture ('07) instructs at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania after receiving her PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi. Yay Dr. B.

Robert Thomas Coyne ('99) introduces his newest addition, Margaret Frances Coyne who was born on Christmas Eve to make for a very merry day. "She's great, healthy and well, and red headed like her father." He just got back from Paris where "I was finishing up this marathon book, *26.1 to Go*, due out in 2011 from Penguin/Gotham books. The whole family got stuck there (wonderfully so) for ten extra days because of the volcano. I was a guest at this year's ND Lit festival, which was a thrill—many years ago, I was on the planning committee when I was a sophomore at ND, and my wife was the chairperson (that's how we met), so it was an honor to be reading." His work was a \$400 question on *Jeopardy* in February. In the Nonfiction category the question/answer was "the title of Tom Coyne's golf Memoir *Paper* pays homage to George Plimpton's..." Paper Lion. Tom normally views the program but happened to miss that episode, but said, "I didn't see it when it aired, which was too bad since I'm a pretty regular watcher. But my phone started going, it was a fun night."



Alumni reports pubs & personal cont...

Renée D'Aoust ('06) and Daniele Puccinelli (2005 goalie of Tom Miller's MFA water polo team) eloped on 22 July 2009. They were last spotted on top of a Swiss mountain, supposedly not far from their abode. They have a palm tree in their back yard. Recent essay publications include "The Air Must Circulate" in *The Collagist*, Issue 9, April 2010, and "Twine," which was nominated for a Pushcart, in *Squid Quarterly*, Vol. 1, Issue 2, Fall 2009. D'Aoust received a "Notable Essay" listing in *Best American Essays 2009*. She continues to write reviews for *Culture Vulture*, *Explore Dance*, and *Brooklyn Rail* and a garden column for *Idaho Farm Bureau Quarterly Magazine*. A critical essay about Swiss choreographer and dancer Anna Huber is forthcoming in *On Stage Alone*.

Amy Faith DeBetta ('98) writes that she recently left New Mexico in order to relocate for employment. She has published her short stories in 10 magazines under her male pen name as the same submissions were denied with a female name and, given the content of her fiction, was certain she'd lose corporate jobs using her true name! She is currently writing a novel and will finally be using her true name! When 47 pages were lost after lightning actually struck her home frying her zip drive and destroying her computer beyond all repair she thought it was a major



set back, only to later realize, it was nothing but a blatant sign to revamp, rethink and do a better job!

Kevin di Camillo ('95) returned his degree to Notre Dame president Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, to protest the awarding of an honorary doctorate to president Obama in 2009.

Mary Dixon ('06) published a poem in *Heavy Bear*, "Planting Tubers," February 2010.

Stephane Dunn ('00) published an opinion piece, "Psst! Morehouse men—pull your pants up!" in *ajc*, November 11, 2009, and a tribute in the *Elkhart Truth* for Genai Coleman. She's also proud to present Nadir Muse Anuua Muhammad born July 23, 2010.



Jacqueline Dwyer ('09) published her fiction "Rules" in the Spring 2010 *Wisconsin Review*.

Kristen Eliason ('08) published the poems "Incheon, July 15, 2006" and "No-jiriko" in *Squid Quarterly* Volume 1, Issue 1 (Summer 2009).

Jessica Martinez English ('09) after graduation moved back home to Savannah, Georgia and was married in June. She works for Savannah College of Art and Design in academic advising—technically, as

a student success adviser. She writes that "I currently work as the student success adviser for illustration, painting, and sequential art students. I have the largest caseload in the office; I advise over five hundred students. As an adviser, I also teach a course called First Year Experience, which is required of all freshmen and is a requisite for graduation. I taught six sections of FYE in the fall, and I am currently teaching one this winter as well." She had a sequence of eleven poems and five photographs published in *MIND*, a charity anthology in the United Kingdom.

Danna Ephland ('06) was awarded a one week Yeager Foundation Teacher Residency at Gilchrist where she will continue work on her *Bodysongs: Moving to Write* manuscript, a handbook for classroom teachers. She writes, "My modern dance years and my creative writing years meet in the classroom (or community center) with exercises that combine basic movement and writing to generate new work (including performance) and awareness of bodily/kinesthetic connections to "composition" of many kinds. Also, after a brief hiatus not teaching, I returned with relish to the community college where I delight in the nuts & bolts of the writing process with a very diverse student body here in the state at the top of the unemployment list. I've met some amazing colleagues for support & inspiration in this work. And!! my son Sam is

graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School on June 7th, where President Barack Obama addressed the graduates. When Sam was not crossing the stage, he was on drums in the pit. Celebrations all around." **Darin Graber** ('08) published in the first issue of *Squid Quarterly*, summer 2009, "Stacking Wood." He writes, "I am still working away at my MA/PhD program in Comparative Literature at the University of Colorado and living in Boulder. As far as creative things go, my band, The Longest Day of the Year, released a live demo CD from a radio show we played and also an EP called "Coffee Stains." You can listen to all that at www.mulewax.bandcamp.com, and we have pages on Facebook, Myspace, and Reverbnation—and even some videos on YouTube, I believe. We mostly play around the Boulder and Denver area and have some shows lined up through the summer as of now."

Stephanie Guerra ('04) is teaching children's literature and YA fiction at Seattle University as well as creative writing to the women of King County Jail. She has been doing research on using urban fiction to teach incarcerated teens. She reports that she sold her YA novel, *Ruby and Stella*. It will come out in early 2012 and is "pretty excited!" She presents her babies below.



Alumni reports pubs & personal cont...

Rebecca Hazelton Stafford ('05) [to the best of this editor's tracking AKA paying attention skills] has published most recently in *FIELD*, *The Southeast Review*, *Nimrod*, and *Web Conjunctions*. Becky won a one year fellowship, the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow, to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Yay you!

HINT HINT

Keep in touch everyone. Let us know where you are, what you are doing, publications, whatever. Don't make this editor beg. For shame!

Lily Hoang's ('06) novel *The Evolutionary Revolution* came out in May from Les Figues Press. Her short novel *Changing* received a 2009 PEN/Beyond Margins Award. Her short story collection, *Unfinished*, was accepted for publication, due out next fall, and her novel *Invisible Women* is slated for publication in early 2011. This year, she's published short fiction in *PEN/America*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Collagist*, *Make Magazine*, *MudLuscious*, *Eleven Eleven*, *Pear Noir!*, *Dogzplot*, and *Wigleaf*. She has a podcast of her reading from *The Evolutionary Revolution* at Apostrophe Cast. She's given readings and lectures at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Lake Forest College, Medaille College, and the University of Vermont. She quit her cushy professor job in December and moved to Canada with her wonderful husband Karl. She'll be

starting a PhD program in Geography in September at Queen's University. She writes, "I have stories that are or will be published in: *My Mother She Killed Me*, *My Father He Ate Me: Contemporary Fairy Tales*, *Haunted Legends*, and *Best of the Web 2010*. I also became Associate Editor at Starcherone Books and Editor at Tarpaulin Sky. I blog for HTML Giant."

Brian Lysholm ('08) married Roberta Schmidt on January 16, 2010 and they moved to South Korea where he teaches middle school. He plans to join a friend in Seoul who is an editor of a Korean/English newspaper and write travel columns starting in June.

Corey Madsen ('04) will be married June 24th, 2010 in Redstone, Colorado. He continues to reside in the Rockies, where he plays music locally and is at work on a novel about retail. His 2009 novel *An Evensong for Father Bob* is available at Alibris.com.

Jessica Maich ('97) published "The Poets Laureate of Maryland For Lucille Clifton 1936-2010" in *Common Sense*, April/May 2010.

Jayne Marek ('05) has been promoted to full professor last year at Franklin College. She writes, "I've read my poetry a few times at Bookmama's in Indianapolis and contributed to poetry-and-art exhibits in Indianapolis and Muncie. I had a poem in a recent *Tipton Poetry Journal*. I've

started doing endurance events. Even those of us "in the club" can participate in runs and triathlons! Yikes!"

David Mayer ('01) continues to work as the Creative Concept Director for New Product Concepts at American Greetings.

Tom Miller ('06) After a brief eight-year courtship, Tom Miller and Abby Carlin are getting married this summer in July. Tom will start medical school in August at Cornell in NYC. His story "The Death of Macabee du Lac" was published in issue 1 of *Cavalier*.



Gwendolyn Oxenham ('06) continues to pursue distribution for her film *Pelada*—the Brazilian term for pickup soccer—it follows two former college undergraduate standouts (Duke's **Gwendolyn Oxenham** and Notre Dame's **Luke Boughen**) as they visit 25 countries in search of pickup soccer games and the stories of the people who play them. The film was in the South by Southwest Film Festival and others. A DVD copy is available at: www.pelada-movie.com The film and stars both received great write-ups in *Sports Illustrated*, February 16 and in *The New York Times*, April 19, 2010. Luke and Gwendolyn

commit to holy matrimony in June of this year.

Rumit Pancholi ('08) is working as a journal production editor with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins and as a copyeditor for Taylor & Francis.

Justin Perry ('09) received a Stegner Fellowship and continues his fiction writing at Stanford beginning in the fall of this year for the next two years. Wow/Congrats!

Krista (Peterson) Quinby ('03) says, "I'm still writing scripts for Sierra Media during my daughter's all too brief naps."



Susan Ramsey ('08) was hosted by David Lehman to mark the release of the *Best American Poetry of 2009* at the New School in NYC last September. She conducted an interview with Bonnie Joe Campbell on *Maudnewton.com*.

Jared Randall ('09) writes, "My major activities over the past year: *Apocryphal Road Code* (poetry book) coming out from Salt Publishing in December; poems published online at *Bull: Men's Fiction* and *Subtle-Tea.com*; teaching activities: substitute taught in area schools and became an adjunct instructor for Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek in January (courses: Encounter with the Arts, Writing Skills, and Freshman Comp.); started a blog: [http://Wandering-](http://Wandering-10)

Alumni reports pubs & personal cont...

Stiff.com/mainstem/; did freelance work for various clients (web copy, editing/proofreading); and editorial assistant for scholarly journal *RM*. That's about it. No new kids or anything like that!"

Jon Readey ('02) continues as an English PhD candidate at the University of Virginia.

Michael G. Richards ('02) was involved in the Roger Smith Shorts and wrote a film that was screened June 10th at the Brooklyn International Film Festival. The film is titled *The End* and was produced by Panman Productions.

Cyndy Searfoss ('95) writes that she is "the Director of Advancement at Stanley Clark School in South Bend. Still writing - working on my second novel and will have two short stories to send out soon. My kids are older and life has settled down (kinda)."

Sheheryar Sheikh ('07) reports that he manages a team of CV writers and analysts, who prepare CVs for executives and senior job seekers. He works for TheLadders.co.uk.

Don Schindler ('99) became the New AgencyND director at Notre Dame. He oversees the operations of ND's integrated marketing communications agency when not fighting Indiana motorcycle handlebar height regulations. Varooooooooooooom.

Mike Smith ('01) writes, "I'm living in Raleigh, N.C., not working, but looking, and armed with a new book of poetry, *Multiverse*, out from BlazeVOX Books. Virginia is finishing up 2nd grade with flying colors and Langston has started potty training (with colors that only occasionally get airborne.)" TMI?!

Marcela Sulak ('92) has accepted a new post: She is now Director of the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel, where she is an assistant professor of English. Her poetry collection, *Immigrant* was published in March with Black Lawrence Press. Her poem "Coffee" won the "Moving Words" competition for the DC Metro area, which means that metro busses in Northern Virginia



Amalia Sulak

and Washington DC will be covered in Marcela's "Coffee" from April - June 2010. Her translation of Czech poet Karel Hynek Macha's book-length poem, *May* has gone into second printing this summer.

Daniel Casey Sumrall ('03) continues to run *Gently Read Literature* as well as getting published most recently in *The Smoking Poet*, *The Wild Goose Poetry Review*, and *Ouroboros Review*.

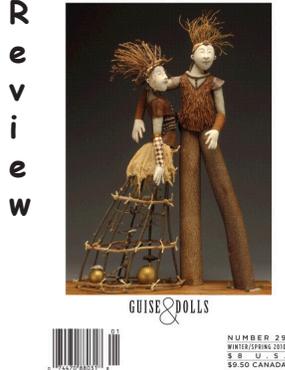


James Wilson ('05) is an assistant professor in the Humanities Department at Villanova. This year, his daughter Livia turned three and his first son, James Augustine, was born. He continues to publish essays every couple weeks in *First Principles* and *Front Porch Republic*, and had a chapbook of poems appear this Spring, *Four Verse Letters* (some of which ND MFAs were involved in criticizing some years back). He gave invited lectures this year at Patrick Henry College and Virginia Tech, and his dissertation-book *Catholic Modernism* is under contract with a university press. The most surprising professional

news this year was his series of essays, "Art and Beauty against the Politicized Aesthetic," gained a wide audience, resulting in an interview with Mars Hill Audio and discussions in *The Public Discourse* and *The Weekly Standard*. One real thrill was bringing the family back to Notre Dame last November for the Ethics and Culture Conference, at which *Front Porch Republic* held a panel discussion. It is always a pleasure to come home and to indoctrinate the children in the Irish way.

Christina Yu ('08) published her fiction, "Sphere" in *New Letters* Volume 75. No 4, Summer 2009.

ND Review
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Issue Number 29 Winter/Spring 2010 of the *Notre Dame Review*, *Guisse & Dolls*, includes a short review by alumnus **Renée E. D'Aoust** and a review by emeritus **James Walton**.



Issue Number 30 Summer/Fall 2009 of the *Notre Dame Review*, *Symmetry and Babel*, includes poems and a review by **Mike Smith** ('01). Faculty **John Wilkinson** and **James Walton** also have reviews in the issue.



Incidental news:

The 2010 Notre Dame valedictorian, Katie Washington, was interviewed by English major, Josh Flynt for *ND Today*. He asked, "What was your favorite class while at Notre Dame? Washington said, "Fiction Writing during the fall of this year. I'd never considered myself a very good writer, so this was something completely outside of my own interests. It was so rewarding to be able to learn how to express myself in a new way." Who enriched this student's undergraduate educational experience? What professor deserves a teaching award (or 2-3 of them)? The answer is found by reviewing the faculty news section. The name, highlighted in red, we're proud to distinguish as the kind of teacher who is at his best with the brightest.

The Graduate School funded a musical treat for interested graduate students last fall 2009. **R. Jess Lavolette, Courtney McDermott, Ruth Martini, EddieJoe Cherbony** and **Amy White** said YES to and had the exquisite pleasure of listening to the Tokyo String Quartet perform at DPAC.



Reader Series There are few givens in life. We can presume a final thesis reading on April 29th and the IVth Women Writers Festival will happen March 28-30, 2011. Women headliners and additional readers can be found by viewing the new website. We also can be sure of the AWP in Washington D.C. February 2-5. Otherwise, get thee to a computer to see who's coming to read and to keep abreast of everything but your mother's recipe for chicken soup.



Late arrival update

Nathan Gunsch ('06) writes that he "still toeing the line between yuppie-dom and edgy street poet: he's marrying Kathryn Wysocki on August 14, 2010, at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City, and he's moved from Brooklyn to the Upper East Side of Manhattan; however, he still manages to spit mad verse when he's not ironing his collared shirts. This past spring he was commissioned to write a new work for Poetic People Power <http://www.poeticpeoplepower.org>, performing it along with older pieces at their 8th annual show, *Price Check: How We Became A Culture of Consumption*, on May 19th at the Grand Theater of The Producers Club in NYC. Go Irish!"

*The Creative Writing Program
welcomes the class of 2012.*

Matriculation

Prose

Bryant Davis
Allegheny College, BA

Katherine Cornwell
Smith College, BA

Lindsay Herko
SUNY at Buffalo, BA

Sara Leitenberger
Pennsylvania State University, BA
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, JD

Edward Trefts
Columbia University, BA

Poetry

Patricia Connolly
Dominican University, BA
Loyola University Chicago, MA

Carina Finn
Sweet Briar College, BA

Jiyeon Lee
Austin College, BA

Seth Oelbaum
Columbia College, BA

Amanda Utzman
Southern Utah State College, BA