Letter from Director

It’s been a busy three years in Creative Writing at Notre Dame. As you can see from the cornucopia of activity from our students and alumni on these pages, our creative-writing family continues to grow: in the last three years alone, students and alumni have published some: 201 poems; 49 short stories; ten essays; two interviews; seven reviews; three chapbooks; three novels; five short-story collections; three poetry collections; one nonfiction book; an anthology; two plays; and a film. This is an astonishing level of creative activity that on a per-capita basis compares well with the best programs in the country. Though the program itself continues to intentionally retain its intimate size (small enough for people to know each other’s work, but large enough to include a diversity of views, aesthetics, backgrounds, and goals), it has grown significantly in other ways. The addition of poet Johannes Göransson to the faculty has added yet another important dimension. We’ve made significant strides toward fully funding all of our MFA students (watch for more on this in the near future). We’ve also formalized a “concentration” in creative writing for undergraduates at Notre Dame. This allows select undergraduates to augment their major in English by taking a sequence of poetry and fiction writing courses which will lead to a “concentration in creative writing,” first cousin to a minor, which will be formally recognized on their transcripts. We’ve also revamped our website, which was the first step toward clarifying the identity of creative writing at Notre Dame, and its distinctive character of a variety of aesthetics and the fusion of literary reading and writing. Apparently those outside the university are noticing as the number of applicants applying to the creative writing program has nearly doubled over the last three years. Finally, looking forward, we’re happy to welcome Orlando Menes as the incoming Director of Creative Writing. We hope you’ll visit the newly revamped Creative Writing web site (creativewriting.nd.edu), stay in touch, and continue to use our program as a hub for your extended writing family. Steve

Visiting Writers 2010 - 2011

We had a full docket of readings this year which kept our students and faculty busy almost every Wednesday night. The majority of these were given at the Hammes Bookstore. Our student reading series said goodbye to its longtime home, Lula’s Café, and said hello to a new venue, Main St. Café located in beautiful downtown South Bend.

The fall semester began with a performance/reading of John Matthias’ Ballet Mécanique: A Spread-Spectrum Ecstasy, a piece inspired by the life and theories of famed actress Hedy Lamarr. The multimedia presentation fascinated all in attendance and also featured the voices of Joyelle McSweeney and Stephen Fredman, with digital contributions by Chris Jara. Matthias was followed on September 15 by Salvador Plascencia, reading from his acclaimed novel, The People of Paper. The performance began with a presentation about the physical makeup of a book, before he read a selection of pieces from the novel which did an excellent job of illustrating his sonorous language and the complexity of his narrative. Afterwards, Steve Tomasula hosted a wonderful reception at his house downtown in the Bend where audience members had a chance to interact with the incredibly kind and gracious Plascencia.

Letras Latinas invited poet, William Archila, to campus and treated self-selected hungry and willing MFA students to a pizza gathering in early November.
On November 6 program director Steve Tomasula read from his new media novel *TOC* in the Digital Video Theatre in Jordan Hall of Science, while multimedia parts of the novel were projected on the planetarium-like ceilings of the venue. The space was perfect and certainly added to the feeling of time’s immensity which the novel took as its central theme.

**Davis Schneiderman** read at Hammes Bookstore on November 10 from his dystopic novel *Drain*. His performance captivated all in attendance. None present will likely forget “The Spruce Goose” before they die.

The semester’s reading schedule closed with former poetry professor John Wilkinson reading with Johan Jönson, all the way from Sweden. Wilkinson read a number of poems, including one about shoe fetishism which was characterized by short beats, alliteration, and a narrative moving increasingly away from the poem’s original impetus. Johan Jönson read from his collection of poems *Collobert Orbital*, which was translated from the Swedish by Göran D. The book, based on the notebooks of French poet, Danielle Collobert, caused readers to question the relationship and symbiosis between humans and machines.

The spring semester began with a reading from legendary Chilean poet Raul Zúrita, reading in Spanish from his classic elegy to the Chilean Disappeared, *Song for his Disappeared Love*. He was accompanied by his translator, poet Daniel Borzutsky, reading in English. Though Zúrita’s language was not always understandable to the entire crowd, his emotions shone through crystal clear, and attendees agreed it was one of the most powerful poetry readings they had ever attended.

2010 Sparks Prize winner Monica Mody read at Hammes bookstore on February 9. Her poem “Boots” recast these objects made for feet as reflections of Power as well as reflections through Power.

**Kelcey Parker** read at Hammes on February 16 from her short story collection *For Sale by Owner*, a book where protagonists are desperately searching for answers, but unable to sort out their own tangled lives.

Creative Writing Program alums Jared Randall and Mike Smith read from their new collections at Hammes on February 23. Jared read from his new collection from Salt Publishing, *Apocryphal Road Code*. The audience was delighted with his beautiful rhythms and insights into the hobo lifestyle. Mike Smith read from *Multiverse*, his book of poetic investigations in the form of anagrams.

2011 Sandeen Prize winner Janet Kaplan read from her prizewinning book, *Dreamlife of a Philanthropist*. Kaplan’s light sense of humor peppered in between poems made the reading speed by. We’ve posted YouTube reading selections on our website that you can sample to hear Kaplan and others to get a sense of their talent and charm.

The Women’s Writers Festival IV was a two day extravaganza of awesomeness dedicated to nonfiction. The first night program alum Jenny Boully opened up the festival reading from an essay replete with lyricism that explored ghosts and the memory of place. She was followed immediately by Edwidge Danticat reading from her memoir *Oh Brother I’m Dying* about the birth of her daughter during the deaths of multiple family members. The second night of readings began with Sonja Livingston reading from her book *Ghostbread*, a book comprised of vignettes from her childhood. Susan Orlean read from her forthcoming book about the famous German Shepherd Rin Tin Tin.

The Hammes Bookstore invited the program to help them celebrate the National Poetry Month of April and we complied by giving them The Poetry & Prose Tag Team Reading consisting of the following word wrestling wrestlers: Carina Finn, Ruth Martini, Courtney McDermott, Ed Trefts, Seth Oelbaum, and Amanda Utzman.

George Saunders, Craig Nova, William Paul Young, and Audrey Niffenegger were brought to campus by the 44th Annual Notre Dame Literary Festival. Our graduate students served as judges for the lit festival writing contest.
April 29th featured a brief selection from the thesis of each member of the graduating class including: Eddie-Joe Cherbony, Ailbhe Darcy, Elizabeth Franklin, Kimberly Koga, Robert Lavolette, Ruth Martini, Courtney McDermott, Levi Sanchez, Ryan Sanford Smith, Jennifer Stockdale, Amy Thomas and C.J. Waterman. The event was held in the LaFortune Ballroom. The entire ballroom floor was filled (not an empty seat) by students, faculty, family and friends who came to listen to the chosen short selections making up the final reading from the class of 2011. It rocked, it rocked, it rocked.

Conferences

Johannes Göransson organized the Night and Day Poetry Symposium which featured Judith Goldman, Aaron Kunin, Daniel Tiffany, and Marjorie Welish in a two day extravaganza of poetry readings, panels, and a lecture. The conference was dedicated to writers who are also critics. Their writing moves among genres and engages different media, including painting, film, sound and collage. It all began on a sunny October 12 with a reading from Kunin and Goldman. Aaron Kunin read poems from his book The Sore Throat, a book based on an elaborate, anxiety induced hand wringing habit of the author. His reading was tonally nuanced in a way both appropriate and illuminating. Judith Goldman read next in a performance that could only be described as riveting. She flitted between poems at a low tonal register and sound poems that moved at the speed of the world's fastest rollercoaster. Later that night, Daniel Tiffany delivered the annual Duffy Lecture, “On Obscurity: Poetry, Nightlife, and Negative Sociability.” The topic was obscurity in poetry, which Tiffany traced back to the criminal underworld of the fifteenth century. He focused on literary texts which appropriated this language, and posited that despite using language that was unintelligible to contemporaries, these texts still created meaning for their audience. The next day the conference began with a panel on Obscurity and Contemporary Poetics. Aaron Kunin opened with a paper on CA Conrad which discussed historicism and the artifact and how it is able to transcend time through its objecthood and awareness by other people of its existence. Judith Goldman’s paper dealt with epitaphs, old poetry that incorporated epitaphs, and how the meaning of epitaphs changes when read aloud and when printed on gravestones. Marjorie Welish read (via recording) from a collaborative artist book which included poetry and paintings. Later that night, Tiffany and Welish finally graced a packed audience in McKenna Hall with their poetic stylings. Tiffany’s voice lulled the listener into an hypnotic state: he did not pause between the first set of poems he read, 6 line poems begun with old Elizabethan poems. Thus his reading was like a trip on a sailboat, being jerked and dipping as the waves saw fit. Marjorie Welish’s poems do not rely on the image, but rely on wit. Hers was so dry it was like being in the desert.

The Womans Writers Festival IV also included a panel, in addition to its readings. This panel took non-fiction as its broad topic, though much of the conversation ended up circling around whether or not nonfiction is allowed to lie. The jury was hung.

Graduate students in the English Department, including our own R. Jess Lavolette, organized a conference called “The Sincerest Form: Literary Imitation, Adaptation, and Parody.” Carina Finn designed the poster and the program cover image. Betsy Cornwell read an excerpt from her work “Mechanica, or The Clockwork Princess: A Steampunk Cinderella.” She explained to the audience that steampunk is a genre wherein steam power was still a realistic way of mechanization, often in the Victorian era, as was the excerpt from the novel she read. Patricia Connolly read from her “Salinger Poems” which were inspired by J.D. Salinger’s book Nine Stories, ridiculously awesome poems that challenge the bounds of intertextuality. Carina Finn read from her sequence of poems “I HEART MARLON BRANDO.” Seth Oelbaum read a monologue as Sarah Palin addressing a specifically Notre Dame audience. It was raunchy and fun, and even aroused a few bashful PhD students. Success! Kim Koga read her simultaneously seductive and disgusting (in a lovely way!) poems “M” and “The Beaver Poem.”

Local Readings

Our student reading series said goodbye to its home since 2004, Lula’s Café, and said hello to our new venue, Main St. Café located in beautiful downtown South Bend. Second year students, as is our custom, read in the fall semester, in order of appearance, included: Eddie-Joe Cherbony, Ailbhe Darcy, Courtney McDermott, Ruth Martini, Amy Marie Thomas, R. Sanford Smith, Jen Stockdale, Kim Koga,
Local Readings Continued...
Elizabeth Franklin, Jess Lavolette, Levi Sanchez & C.J. Waterman. It was with sadness we found out shortly before the end of the semester that Lula’s would be closing, and thus MFA readings would need a new home. We settled on Main St. Café, a beautiful open space with lots of windows and a raised platform. Second year students who read, in order of appearance, included: Carina Finn, Jiyoon Lee, Betsy Cornwell, Sara Leitenberger, Seth Oelbaum, Ed Trefts, Amanda Utzman, Trish Connolly, Bryant Davis, and Lindsay Herko.

Ailbhe Darcy organized a reading by Scottish poet Roddy Lumsden on September 20 at Artpost in downtown South Bend.

Notre Dame undergraduate Sade Murphy organized a reading in downtown South Bend at Main St. Café

Activities
The creative writing workshops at the South Bend juvenile correction facility were taken over by C.J. Waterman. He enlisted new volunteers Elizabeth Franklin, Monica Mody, Jiyoon Lee, Carina Finn, and Sara Leitenberger. Having traditionally only taught poetry, the classes were able to expand to prose as well. Unfortunately, a number of setbacks within the facility prevented volunteers from teaching for over a month and a half in the fall semester. In the spring the volunteers and facility were unable to find plausible times to hold the classes.

This year, we continued our weekly creative writing class at the Center for the Homeless in downtown South Bend. Each week we supplied a prompt and then wrote for twenty minutes or so before sharing with the group. Joining the writer-residents at the CFH were MFA participants Jiyoon Lee, R. Jess Lavolette, Ed Trefts, Betsy Cornwell, and Professor Valerie Sayers, the faculty advisor for the program. Carina Finn replaces outgoing MFAer Jen Stockdale as coordinator.

The Violence Prevention Initiative is a campaign sponsored by the Gender Relations Center at Notre Dame to create awareness about all forms of violence --domestic, sexual, emotional, etc. A Time to Write Workshop, part of the Violence Prevention Initiative, is a writing workshop for Notre Dame and commu-

nity members to explore writing about the nature of violence, how to address it and how to prevent it in order to create a more humane and just world. The workshop was held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, in Coleman-Morse Lounge, and was an all-day event led by Courtney McDermott, along with Levi Sanchez, Carina Finn, Betsy Cornwell and Ruth Martini. In a large group (including about 15 participants and the MFA facilitators) they discussed published pieces on violence and ways of beginning to think about and write about issues of violence. They then broke up into small groups, led by MFA facilitators, to begin writing on their own. The session ended with a time for people to share what they had written and to provide positive feedback. Some participants then went on to publish their pieces in the VPI’s journal, A Time to Write.

NEW WEBSITE!!!
http://creativewriting.nd.edu
A new award named after Sonia Gernes was presented to Jen Stockdale who was given the 2011 Gernes Community Outreach Award. The Sonia Gernes Award for Community Outreach was inaugurated in 2011 to honor an original founding member of the graduate creative writing program, now an emerita, and to highlight what has become common practice among our students over the last twenty years of the program, their ongoing interest in community service. The Gernes Award will be presented to a student, when warranted, who has done exemplary public service during the two years of his or her residency, usually, but not always, in connection with the Homeless Shelter, or other local organizations, using his or her creative writing skills to enhance the lives of community members.

Our Busy Students

Ailbhe Darcy was a featured poet in The Stinging Fly and on Poetry International Web, which each published a selection of her poems. She reviewed Ben Mazer’s latest collection for The Critical Flame; brought Scottish poet Roddy Lumsden to South Bend for a reading at local gallery, Artpost; and, in Dublin, organized a group poetry reading to launch a new issue of Moloch, the online journal of new Irish writing she co-edits. Her first full-length collection, Imaginary Menagerie, is out in June.

EddieJoe I. Cherbony was named a HASTAC Scholar for the 2010-2011 academic year. The HASTAC Scholars fellowship program recognizes graduate and undergraduate students engaged in innovative work across the areas of technology, the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. He is the recipient of the 2011 Nicholas Sparks Prize.

Betsy Cornwell’s fairy tale retelling “Autopsy” was shortlisted for the 2010 Aeon Award. She read the first chapter of her steampunk Cinderella novel Mechanica, or The Clockwork Princess at “The Sincerest Form,” a graduate literary conference held at Notre Dame. She recently ended a two-year position as an online columnist for Teen Ink Magazine. Her blog, http://elizabethcornwell.com, regularly draws hundreds of visitors, or a thousand or so on a good day. Starting in June, Betsy will intern at the Park Literary Group in New York as one of this year’s Sparks fellows.

Carina Finn is the Graduate Assistant at the Multicultural Student Programs and Services office. She edits and does layout and design for The Bend and Re:Visions, served as a facilitator for writing workshops at the Juvenile Correctional Facility and the Center for the Homeless, and took over as the CFH coordinator in the spring. In the fall, staged readings of her plays “13 Ways of Breaking” and “4Ever Rainbow” (co-authored with C.J. Waterman) were produced by Notre Dame’s Student Players. She participated in two of the Gender Studies Violence Prevention Initiative workshops, as a participant in The Power of the Poster and as a workshop leader for the 3rd annual A Time to Write. She also read submissions for the Notre Dame Review, in her spare time. This spring, Carina attended the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Washington, DC, had a sham-marriage with Jiyoon Lee, where they performed impersonations of Joyelle McSweeney and Johannes Göransson on two panels—“Presses with a Mission” and “Rebuilding Babel --Writers Teaching Translation.” She presented (as herself) a talk on “The Collective Fashion Consciousness: LEMONWORLD & other poems” at the Indiana University, Bloomington Collections and Collaborations conference, and read from “I HEART MAR-LON BRANDO” at Notre Dame’s Parody, Imitation, and Adaptation Conference, which she also helped to organize. Carina organized and served as a panelist at the MSPS Blogging for Social Change symposium, a 1-day symposium to foster productive digital discourse, and helped to organize a reading for Nick Demske, Ryan Downey, and Anne Shaw. She is also a member of the Notre Dame Equestrian club. She’ll spend her summer in New York City interning as a Sparks Fellow for Hachette Book Group.
Our Busy Students Continued...

This year, Carina had poems published in _CutBank_, _Melusine_, _Connotation Press_, and _Seven Corners_. She was a _Seven Corners_ Featured Poet in early November, 2010, and was interviewed by _Connotation Press_. Her short story, “happiness,” is forthcoming on _Storyglossia_, and poems from “I HEART MARLON BRANDO” were nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Lindsay Herko spent the year wrestling alligators to prepare for the prospect of wrestling a novel. She also should be recognized for being a good person on the lookout for Touchdown Jesus during the tornado warnings in case someone had to run after his blow away unders.

Kim Koga participated in the 2011 Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference, and read at The Sincerest Form: Literary Imitation, Adaptation, and Parody conference. She was solicited to write two features for the lit/fashion magazine _Karlie Kloss_. Action Books kept her busy working on their forthcoming anthology, _Burning City: An Anthology of Metropolitan Modernity_, as well as promoting Daniel Tiffany’s _Privado_, Peter Richard’s _Helsinki_, and Raúl Zurita’s _Song for his Disappeared Love_ (trans. Daniel Borzutzky). She also continued working on Steve Tomasz’s forthcoming anthology _HERE●NOW: The Anthology of Prose, Poetry, Visual, Found, E- & Other Hybrid Writings as Contemporary, Conceptual Art_. Her poems, “Almost a red telephone” and “to put my hands against” are forthcoming in Triton College’s journal _Ariel_; “if where in chairs,” “hands against hands,” and “jump off the cliff” are forthcoming in _Vibrant Gray_; “There are two ways bodies touch” in _The Bend_; “how I wanted those brown brown eyes,” “in your hands the voiceless,” and one other poem is forthcoming in _Sioux Narrows Press_. She has a chapbook entitled _Ligature Strain_ forthcoming from Tinfish Press. This fall she plans to participate in the &Now 2011 festival at the University of California, San Diego.

R. Jess Lavolette spent his fall teaching in the Potentials Unlimited Learning Lab at Ivy Tech Community College’s Elkhart Campus. Along with his colleague, _Ruth Martini_, he served as a judge for this year’s Notre Dame Literary Festival Writing Contest. In March, he had the honor of moderating the MFA reading at the Notre Dame English Graduate Student Association Conference. His story, “On The Platform,” an excerpt from his MFA thesis, was published in the inaugural issue of _Raft_, an online journal. He spent some time as an official representative for the English Graduate Student Association.

Jiyoon Lee taught Introduction to Creative Writing at the University of Notre Dame.

After a maudlin February, Sara Leitenberger sprung the spring season with a reading at Main Street Café in March, where she read from two short stories, “the miracle” and “Emergency Donkey: A Travelogue.” The tulips continued to bloom (April showers brought May flowers), as the latter story was named as a finalist for this year’s _CutBank Literary Magazine_ Montana Prize in Fiction, judged by author Eileen Myles. She is currently working on an auto-fictional account of a relationship gone wrong (how sunny and original!) and, cliche of cliches, her novel.

Ruth Martini has been rejected from several prestigious literary magazines.

Courtney McDermott participated in various reading events, including reading at Lula’s Café in the fall, and the Poetry/Prose Tag Team in spring 2011. She presented two papers this academic year, the first called “Crowding the Bathroom: Examining Bathroom Space in Marilyn French’s _The Women’s Room,_” for the Notre Dame Gender Research Workshop, and the second entitled, “A Pop Culture Entryway into Fiction Writing” for the Pedagogy Forum at the AWP Conference. She taught scriptwriting and digital journalism during the summer of 2010 for the Putney Student Travel program, and is an Associate Editor of Fiction for the _Literary Laundry Journal_. She gave a reading and led a workshop on writing at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa, and was the moderator for the panel on creative nonfiction for this year’s Women Writers’ Festival IV at Notre Dame. She also led the Violence Prevention Initiative’s writing workshop, organized by the Gender Relations Center.

Seth Oelbaum accumulated many achievements in his first year at Notre Dame. He’s presented at a conference, performed a play, and started a monthly literature fashion zine entitled _karlie kloss_.

L. Ariel
Our Busy Students Continued...

Jen Stockdale has two short chapbooks forthcoming in 2011: Kid Fingers, published by Wheelchair Party Press, and Now Puppy Teeth published by What to Us (Press). Her poems also appeared in alice blue, Other Rooms, and Weird Year. From January 2010–11, she served as facilitator/coordinator for the weekly creative writing workshop at the Center for the Homeless in downtown South Bend. During the 2010-11 academic year, she worked as a Writing Center tutor. In the fall, she taught Introduction to Poetry at Notre Dame. She continues to teach composition at Indiana University South Bend, where she (along with MFA grad Jen Penkethman) will facilitate a one-day writing workshop for high school students this spring. This year, she has participated in readings at the Michiana Center for the Arts in Goshen, South Bend’s Artpost, and the Hearthside Readers and Writers Series.

C.J. Waterman wrote a collaborative play with Carina Finn, “4ever Rainbow,” which was performed as part of Rage for the Stage. Workshops at the Juvenile Corrections Facility fell apart under his tutelage though hopefully not because of it. He starred as Bristol in Seth Oelbaum’s play, “Sarah Palin in Love.” He began Wheelchair Party (wheelchairparty.blogspot.com), screen-printed-zine-style-chapbooks, last year. It is now up to five titles, including a lovely finger-shaped chap by Jen Stockdale, which is nearing the end of production at this writing. He’s planning a slew of new chaps to be printed/ assembled before he departs South Bend. Should be a whirlwind.

Some of his airport poems are in Lamination Colony and excerpts of his long poem “week” are forthcoming in ep magazine.

Faculty News

During 2009-10, Johannes Göransson published the book Entrance to a colonial pageant in which we all begin to intricate (Tarpaulin Sky Press). He finished his translation of Swedish poet Aase Berg’s Forsla fett (Transfer Fat) which will be published by Ugly Duckling Presse next year. Together with Joyelle McSweeney he continued to publish books with Action Books. They also founded and wrote critical articles on the multi-author blog Montevidayo.com.

Joyelle McSweeney writes: In the fall of 2010, Johannes Göransson and I started the collective blog for hi, lo, and pop-culture, Montevidayo, which has hosted lively, irreverant, multi-vocal conversations on genre, media, the body, fashion, kitsch, gender/genreless writing, fame and glamour, the state of the MFA, reports from poets from the Wisconsin protests, as well as movies, books, gender, politics, war, music, translation, and what might be loosely termed ‘topics in creative writing.’ With our press Action Books, we published books by the major Chilean poet Raúl Zurita and by American poets Daniel Tiffany and Peter Richards. This year I also published The Necropastoral, a book of essays and poems featuring collages by the artist Andrew Shuta; the genre of necropastoral (a term I coined) collapses the binaries of classical pastoral, envisioning a hybrid, unnatural world based not on separation between rural and urban but on contamination of humanist, urban space with flora, fauna, viruses, technology, fraudulence, media, spectres, the living and the dead. I also published poems, prose and reviews in such venues as Gulf Coast, Jubilat, American Book Review, and the Boston Review, and in the anthologies My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales (Penguin) and Poets On Teaching: A Sourcebook (University of Iowa Press). I’m looking forward to two new books in 2012.

Two books by William O’Rourke will be appearing in 2012. One, a 40th anniversary edition, with a new Afterword, of The Harrisburg 7 and the New Catholic Left, published by Notre Dame Press. And, two, a collection of short nonfiction appearing between 1993-2010, titled Confessions of a Guilty Freelancer, to be published by Indiana University Press. He stopped writing his internet column for NUVO in January, but has his own blog, The View From the Couch, on blogspot. He published short pieces at the Huffington Post and the New York Times. And he participated on a panel “Memoir Writing,” as part of the One Book One Michiana program of the St. Joseph Public Library.

Orlando Ricardo Menes’s anthology of Notre Dame poets, entitled The Open Light: Poets from Notre Dame, 1991-2008, was published in March of 2011 by the University of Notre Dame Press. The following poems also appeared in literary

Steve Tomasula published VAS: An Opera in Flatland, the Cyborg Edition (Limited edition book and audio CD) University of Chicago and Chiasmus Press. He published the short stories “Mem” in Rampike (Canada); “The Color of Flesh” in Boulder Pavement: Arts and Ideas (Canada); and “Endurance” in BOMB. He published the following essays: “Where We are Now: A Dozen or So Observations, Historical Notes & Soundings for a Map of Contemporary American Innovative Literature as Seen from the Interior in Études anglaises: revue du monde Anglophone (Paris); “Emergence and Posthuman Narrative” in Flusser Studies: A Multilingual Journal for Cultural and Media Theory; and the book review “The One Marvelous Thing by Rikki Ducornet” in Rain Taxi. He gave invited readings from his fiction at University of Connecticut; University of Notre Dame Digital Visualization Theater; The Writers’ Center of Indiana, Indianapolis; The Museum of Contemporary Art—Denver (sponsored by Mandorla). He was selected to participate in IN(TER)VENTIONS: Literary Practice at the Edge: A Gathering (of American and Canadian authors) at The Banff Centre in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada, where he read from his fiction and was a panel member on “Reading Today” (with Al Filreis, Kenneth Goldsmith, and Marjorie Perloff). He also presented the lecture “The New-Media Novel: The Intersection of Film, E-Lit & Story” at The 4th International Conference & Festival of the Electronic Literature Organization, Brown University. In 2010 he was awarded The Mary Shelly Award for Outstanding Fictional Work (Media Ecology Association); his novel TOC was awarded the 2010 Gold Medal Award, Best Book (eLit Awards and The Jenkins Group). He was also named a Howard Fellow (deferred until 2011).

Peter J. Sturtevant, a benefactor of the Creative Writing Program, died on November 30, 2010 surrounded by his family. He earned his undergraduate degree from Notre Dame in 1956 and later went on to law school at NYU. He enjoyed smoking quietly in his study, reading history books, watching football and playing tennis. His contribution to the Creative Writing Program will never be forgotten. We extend our sympathy and condolences to the Sturtevant family.
Alumni Reports Pubs & Personal

Matt Benedict ('94) is gratified to be a finalist for the New American Fiction Prize, 2010.

Angela Bickham ('98) reports she currently teaches English classes at ELS Language Centers in Charlotte, NC, where she lives with her husband Curtis, their three year old son CJ and 1 year old daughter Alicia. Her most recent poetry publication is in Obsidian - the theme of the issue is Aforebo: A Harvest of North Carolina Writers of African Descent.

Kelley Beeson ('99) writes, “I’ve been happily married to my chef/gardener/techie-husband Maki for nearly 3 years and enjoying our 100-year-old Queen Anne in the North Side of Pittsburgh since December of 2009. My position as Youth Services Coordinator at the Allegheny County Library Association, where I’ve been for 5 years, is also going well. It’s a great fit for someone who loves meetings, ideas, and children’s books! It’s even allowed a cool connection with fellow ND MFAer, Josephine Cameron ('00) whose love and passion for children’s literature on her blog: http://www.pleasecomeflying.com/ caught my eye in my search for great blogs about KidLit and she’ll soon be writing some book reviews for the blog I manage for the children’s librarians in our county.

Maki and I are working on expanding our family with a rescued greyhound soon and I’ve taken up photography with a fancy-shmancy camera (one with a real lens and everything!) and gotten back to some of my drawing and painting roots. Someday, I hope to return to writing but for now, that’s packed safely away until the time is right. And each summer, a friend and I return to our old ND stomping grounds on our way to Lake Michigan--crazy how much South Bend has changed!”

Jenny Boulli ('02) is enjoying being a mother to Penelope, who was born in January. She successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation right before returning to Notre Dame for the Women Writers Festival IV, which was a wonderful and lovely event. Her latest book, not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them, will be available this summer from Tarpaulin Sky Press. She continues to be a fiber-arts enthusiast and now has lovely fiber toys all over the house waiting for Penelope to be old enough to play with. The picture is a toy Jenny crocheted to look like Penny.

Lynne Chien ('07) has officially sold out. In November she said, “see ya” to the white tower of academia and “lei ho!” to the corporate world in Hong Kong. She is currently working for email service provider, Experian CheetahMail, where she gets to exercise her creative muscles on graphic design, write case studies, and work at what can probably best be described as optimizing emails that help emailers send emails. She continues to write a little bit on the side. But really, she can’t tear herself away from the Canucks as they lock up first in the western conference and get set to go all the way. Canucks for the Cup!

Tim Chilcote’s ('07) essays have recently appeared or are forthcoming in Art of Manliness, Hour Detroit, Pokerati, Pure Michigan, and Third Coast.

Michael Collins’ ('91) novel Midnight in a Perfect Night was published last year in England, and has been published in America by Corby books as Of Uncertain Significance. Personally, he writes, “Good Day! With nothing better to do in Michigan besides teaching 6 classes from morning to night, along with writing a new text book Write to Work I began trying to outrun my own demons and ended up on the Irish Team as Captain for the World Championships in Gibraltar in the 100K (62 mile race). I took home a bronze medal for our best showing in the event for a master’s runner. I’ve my sights on climbing Everest in 2012 without oxygen to try and be the fastest man up there with or without oxygen. I know there’s a spectacular way to end it all. I just have to figure it out!”

Dawn Comer ('98) has published a few things in the past year: “Avocado” in The Pedestal Maga-
**Alumni Reports Pubs & Personal Cont...**

“Prayer Before Sex” in *Polite Company Magazine*, and “Fella with an Umbrella: Finding Joy on the Autism Spectrum” in *Mid-America Review*. While she enjoys and recognizes the importance of such activities as freelance writing and editing, starting a support group for parents of kids on the autism spectrum, judging library writing contests, and co-organizing the amazing *Embodying Our Words* event in Lansing, she sometimes in the dead of night wonders, “Am I doing too much?” The picture is of Dawn with Elliot and Lucy.

**Melanie Cotter Page** ('10) published her story “The Naturals” in *971 Menu* and another, “Zombie V” in *Everyday Weirdness*. Her review of “Cris Mazza’s Various Men Who Knew Us As Girls” was accepted for publication in *The Collagist*. And, her story, “Crevices of a Love Story” is forthcoming in the *Dirty Fabulous Anthology* from Jaded Ibis Press, 2011. She bought a Nook Color and joined a writing group to enhance her life.

**Tom Coyne** ('99) writes that he, “recently accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor of English at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, where I will be teaching creative writing in the undergraduate and graduate writing programs. Best to all my friends at the program.”

**Renée E. D’Aoust’s** ('06) narrative nonfiction book *Body of a Dancer* is forthcoming from Etruscan Press (December 2011). Recent publications include *Cavalier Literary Couture, Idaho Forest Owners Association Newsletter*, and *Rhino*, and honors include a “Notable Essay” in *Best American Essays 2011* and a Pro Helvetia Swiss Arts Council accommodation grant to attend Swiss Dance Days in Bern, Switzerland. She continues to teach at North Idaho College. D’Aoust’s web-site is www.reneedaaoust.com.

That’s her pup, Truffles visiting the Emily Dickson Museum.

**Lisa De Niscia** ('93) completed a collection of short fiction and a play, and it’s called *To the Left of the Microwave*. It’ll be available as a paperback and ebook from White-point Press sometime in 2011. Lisa sends the photo to the right and writes that it’s, “a photo of a high school baseball field in my corner of Los Angeles. The high school is Mary Star of the Sea, and the venue is kinda nifty.”

2010 was a year of great medical interest for **Jeanne De Vita** ('00). After starting off the year with her dog’s cancer surgery, Jeanne became the focus of the medical attention and had the first ambulance ride of her life in May. She underwent two surgeries and many many tests in 2010 and has a third and she hopes final (at least for now) surgery scheduled for April 2011. In spite of that excitement, Jeanne started a book club in the city and has been thrilled to find so many women willing to get together monthly and discuss great books. She had a short piece included in the Spring 2010 issue of *The Bend* and has been spending her recuperative time reading not only book club assignments but also working on some new pieces of her own. Coincidentally, in this year of personal medical interest, Jeanne left her job of 7 years handling asbestos claims and moved into the Advanced Medical Technology claims department at CNA where she handles claims for medications, nutritional supplements and medical devices.

Over the last five years, Jeanne has spent more than 1300 hours volunteering with medically fragile/special needs kids and while her volunteer time slowed a bit in 2010, she’s beyond thrilled to begin new assignments in April with families whose children suffer from autism, cerebral palsy, Down’s Syndrome, GERD and brain tumors. In addition to being in total denial that she’s been out of high school 20 years, Jeanne is on the committee to plan her 20th high school reunion. The last year has not been all work and hospital stays, though—in July, Jeanne’s younger sister, Ann Marie (ND Law ’01) was married in Los Angeles. Jeanne and Ann Marie attended ND at the same time—Jeanne in the MFA program while Annie pursued her JD, and lived together so Jeanne was happy to see some familiar ND Law faces at the wedding. Jeanne was the matron of honor and...
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was especially grateful that her father, who con-
cluded a difficult round of chemotherapy shortly
before the wedding, was in great
health and
spirits for the
event. Jeanne
can still be
found in a small suburb
outside of Chicago and
welcomes visits from
MFA’ers when they pass
through or visit Chi-
Town.

John Dethloff ('02) &
Nora Dethloff (née Ed-
wards ('02) had a beau-
tiful baby girl, Josephine,
in June. John is
currently teaching
English
at Lonestar College, and
Nora is a librarian at the
University of Houston.
Josie is busy planning
world domination and
learning to walk.

Emily DiFilippo ('10)
teaches Spanish at St.
Elizabeth Academy, a
diverse school for girls in
the Tower Grove neigh-
borhood of St. Louis. Her
work is forthcoming in
So to Speak: A Feminist
Journal of Language and
Art. She now writes under
a fake name because she
is a role model for the
Catholic youth and isn’t
supposed to use profanity.

Tony D’Souza’s ('00)
novel, Mule, is to be
published by Mariner
Books, and is coming out
in September, 2011.

Kevin Ducey ('04)
writes, “I spent the last
six months in Mexico,
teaching English and
working on translations.
Recent poems in AGNI,
Sonora Review, Beloit
Poetry Journal.”

Stephane Dunn ('00)
wrote an article for
theloop21.com called
“When mega churchin’
fails.” Also “Oprah: A
black host surrounded by
white experts.” And, she
publishes online articles at http://newblackman.
blogger.com/2011/01/
did-he-just-say-nigger-
policing-my-sons.html.

Jaclyn Dwyer ('09)
was nominated for a Push-
cart Prize. She has work
forthcoming in the Iron
Horse Literary Review.
The Pushcart nominated
piece is called “Rules”
from Wisconsin Review,
vol. 44. She doesn’t have
dates for the Iron Horse
poem, but it’s called “My
Father’s Memoir Without
Memories,” featured in
the Father’s Day issue.

Danna Ephland ('06)
writes, “Good thing
southwest Michigan is
beautiful. I traveled 7,414
miles in 2010 as an ad-
junct instructor in En-
lish, teaching first-time
courses including:The
Nature of Creativity for
the Teaching, Learning
and Educational Studies
Department at Western
Michigan University;
College Writing and Cre-
ative Writing at Kalama-
zoo Valley Community
College; and continuing
since 2006 with Fresh-
man Comp at Kellogg
Community College in
Battle Creek, where she
will also teach a journal
writing workshop this
summer.
As a self-proclaimed
poetry activist, she just
finished facilitating an-
other community writing
workshop at the local
independent bookstore.
These workshops culmi-
nate with a public read-
ing, often by first time
poets & writers. Danna
also helps organize the
monthly Poets on the
Page reading series at a
local venue housed in
an old fire station, aptly
called Fire (www.this-
isfire.com). She is also
on the board of Friends
of Poetry whose annual
Poems That Ate Our Ears
contest & reading takes
place as part of Kalama-
zoo’s summer downtown
festivities in June. She or-
ganized the annual March
Teachers’ Workshop for
K-12 teachers interested
in tips on teaching po-
etry writing to children.
She was joined by fellow
presenters, Anna Ill and
Jennifer Sweeney.
Publications include a
poem accepted in an
anthology of villanelles,
along with fellow ND
poet Susan Ramsey.
Final edits on the long-
awaited Needle Poems
continue.
The big deal here last
June was my son Sam
graduating from Ka-
lamazoo Central H.S.
and shaking President
Obama’s hand (the other
300 did, too...) at the
nationally televised cer-
emony. Thrilling! Sam is
now attending WMU as a
Kalamazoo Promise kid.
Another family gradu-
ation takes place soon
when my sister Carrie
graduates from Buffa-
lo State University with her
B.S. in industrial technol-
ogy. Carrie was at my ND
graduation in 2006 and I
look forward to being at
hers on May 14th! Late
bloomers unite!”

Michael Estes ('05)
writes, “As far as me and
mine, my wife Rachel and
I are expecting another
bundle of wonder at the
end of May, which will
be easier since we moved
back to our native Ken-
tucky last summer and
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are swimming in a sea of helpful grandparents. I stopped teaching high-school English a couple years ago to be home with Sonia (who turns 3 in July), and I think she gets as many of my jokes as the high-schoolers did. By virtue of my new profession, I know a lot of very repetitive songs and can smell a diaper at 30 paces. I write and submit as many poems as the naps allow.”

In late June of this year David Ewald (‘03) will be releasing a novel on Amazon’s Kindle and other e-book formats entitled He Who Shall Remain Shameless (published through Macromere LLC). More info about the novel can be found at either http://macromere.com/ or http://www.davidmichaelewald.com/.

Esteban Galindo (‘97) writes, “2011 has been a pretty standard year for the Galindo Family. Our oldest, Stevie Jr., turns five this April. Our younger son, Peyton (pictured), is six months. Both my wife and I are still working in the Mexican food industry. I write when I can; publishing mostly in the local paper, The Capistrano Dispatch.”

This year Jarrett Haley (‘08) and his wife had a sweet little daughter, Charlotte. He also got a story, “The Way of the Rider” in The Collagist, and there’s big things happening with his journal, BULL. Check it out sometime at BULLmensfiction.com.

Rebecca Hazelton Stafford (‘05) has work forthcoming from The Gettysburg Review and The Southern Review. She was recently published in Phoebe, The Journal, Notre Dame Review, Drunken Boat, and webConjunctions. More information at www.rebeckahazelton.net/. She was a senior editor for Devils Lake, a new literary journal from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Lily Hoang’s (‘06) novel The Evolutionary Revolution was released by Les Figues Press last summer. Her short story collection Unfinished—where Lily finished stories started by 20 innovative writers, such as Brian Evenson and Kate Bernheimer—was released in April by Jaded Ibis Press. She had stories appear in PEN America, My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me (Penguin), Haunted Legends (TOR Books), and Best of the Web 2010 (Dzanc). She continued her role as Editor at Tarpaulin Sky and Associate Editor at Starcherone Books. This summer, the anthology she co-edited with Blake Butler called Thirty Under Thirty will be published by Starcherone Books. She also judged Wigleaf’s Top 50 (stories published on the web in 2010). Next fall, she will be joining the MFA program at New Mexico State University as an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing. She can be found virtually at HTML Giant. She had a story nominated for the Shirley Jackson Awards.

Julie (Lanke) Dudrick, (‘97) is living in Scotland with her family while her husband, David, is teaching at the University of St. Andrews for the spring semester. She is chronicling the experience with Scottish culture and language (or at least the parts that she has been able to understand...) in a blog at http://dudricksin-scotland.blogspot.com. The family will return to Hamilton, New York and Colgate University in the summer of 2011, to resume normal programming.

Iris Law (‘10) worked as a First Year Composition instructor at Notre Dame during fall semester 2010 before moving home to New Jersey, where she is now teaching composition at a local community college while continuing to edit her literary journal Lantern Review. She was recently accepted as a Kundiman Fellow and will attend its summer writing retreat in June. Forthcoming publications include poems placed in Barely South Review and in an anthology of persona poems that is being edited by Oliver de la Paz and Stacey Lynn Brown.

Alan Lindsay (‘91) writes, “Tidbits: I have been named Head of the Department of English, Fine Arts and Foreign Languages at NHTI-Concord’s Community College. My new short play “Thimble Major” has been selected part of
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the Page to Stage series in Concord, N.H. March 6 and 27th along with works of other members of Granite Playwrights, Ink (http://playwrightsink.blogspot.com/). It will be produced again at Red River Theater in Concord in April or May and be produced finally at Boston University during three shows at the end of July.

Alexander MacLeod’s (’97) short stories Light Lifting came out in Canada in fall 2010, and in the US spring 2011. It was shortlisted for the Giller Prize, “Canada’s most prestigious literary award,” according to his publisher.

Jayne Marek (’05) writes, “Over the past year or so, I’ve been part of poetry readings in and around Indianapolis. I completed a book review for Modern Periodical Studies and saw another piece arrive in print (a chapter in Cambridge Companion to Modernist Women Writers). I had one poem appear in Tipton Poetry Review and taught an all-new advanced creative writing course. Plus I do a lot of doggone running.”

Janet McNally (’05) had poetry and fiction accepted by Crab Orchard Review, Poet Lore, Confrontation, Bell- ingham Review, Southhampton Review, and Louisville Review. Her daughter Juno Elizabeth McNally-Mank was born April 9th at 7:39 pm. She weighed in at 7 lbs, 2 oz and was 21 inches long!

Monica Mody’s (’10) manuscript Kala Pani was accepted for publication by 1913 Press. The book will be out in the fall of 2012. In addition, her poems appeared in the Boston Review (Poet’s Sampler), West Wind Review, apocryphal text, horse less review, and Danse Macabre. A chapbook, Travel & Risk, was published by Wheelchair Party and she was also part of a six-poet chapbook, Surfaces, released by Sarai, Delhi. Body Talk, a gender & sexuality resource for adolescent girls in India to which she is a contributor, was brought out by Harper-Collins. Mody spent part of last summer teaching writing workshops in her hometown, Ranchi.

Clare Moen (’00) is living in Brooklyn with her partner and two cats. Recently, she has participated in a pro-Palestine flash mob in Grand Central Station, modeled in a queer country fashion show, crocheted a robot, helped create a workshop for social work grad students on rethinking mental illness, gotten a new tattoo, and had a lot of migraines. Clearly she’s a poet. What any of this has to do with poetry remains to be seen. Clare still edits WIN magazine for the War Resisters League and reads 5 books at a time.

Gwendolyn Oxenham (’06) was back on campus in February to attend screenings of her film “Pelada.”

Jen Penkethman (’10) interviewed Adam Levin for Hipster Book Club.

Susan Ramsey (’08) writes, “Beloved CH -- Well, sometimes no news is just no news? In my case I only had two poems accepted in 2010 (by Poetry East) and continue to teach creative writing to adults at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Didn’t really seem worth clogging up the airwaves. Y’All are good motivation, though -- I’m pulling up my submission-socks and getting cracking so as to have something more impressive to tell you this time next year. May catch a glimpse of you at the women’s lit festival if I manage to heal up by then.”

Jared Randall (’09) writes, “Karen and I decided to move to the Kalamazoo/Portage, MI area in November of 2010 and have settled in for the most part. I continue to teach for Kellogg Community College (humanities and English composition) in Battle Creek and Coldwater, MI. I also had the opportunity to resume editorial assistant work with the journal Rethinking Marxism -- essentially the same work I performed as a grad assistant at Notre Dame. The journal’s editor lost her GA funding (imagine that!) and their editorial board agreed to ask me back on a contract basis. December, 2010, saw my Apocryphal Road Code poetry book/project in print with Salt Publishing after a frantic couple months of proofing and such. I stink at publicity but it’s moving along and I’m enjoying those times when I get to share my work in person, both at readings and on local radio/news outlets. Thanks again to the Notre Dame Creative Writing Program for letting me visit in February. It was a blast getting to see old faces and meet new ones! Lastly on the personal front, yes, it’s true, Karen is due with our 5th little
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one mid-June of this year. Crazy? Yes, but we’re looking forward to meeting the little guy. My “latest” poetic work is up at The Offending Adam (which my fellow workshopers from Joyelle’s class will recognize, so not really new, my “Stations of the Cross: Unsubstantiated” http://theoffendingadam.com/2011/04/stations-of-the-cross-untransubstantiated/).

Keep up with me on my blog, http://WanderingStiff.com/mainstem or feel most welcome to connect with me via Facebook or Twitter stream if we have not yet done so.”

Mike Smith (’01) remarried in August and moved with his new family of 7 to Cleveland, MS, where he is the new Assistant Professor of Poetry at Delta State University. New and old work appeared or is appearing soon in DMQ Review, The Open Light: Poets from Notre Dame, 1991-2008 (University of ND Press), and Visiting Dr. Williams: Poems Inspired by the Life and Work of William Carlos Williams (University of Iowa Press).


Mike Valente’s (’09) had a short story in The Literary Review.

Josephine (Vodicka) Cameron (’00) writes, “I received an Arts Are Elementary grant to present Songs of the Civil War workshops to fifth graders in Maine. I’ll be packing 30 classrooms visits into two weeks...so April will be a busy month, to say the least. I also recently signed with a literary agent, who has sent my first middle grade novel off on submission. (I’m trying to remember to breathe and keep all my fingers and toes crossed.) Her hubby, Kevin Johnson, (’99) finished up a screenplay this winter and has embarked on an exciting new creative non-fiction project. Overall, things are happy and productive here in Maine—especially now that the daffodils are emerging and spring is officially upon us!”

Stephanie White (’09) is still at work on her PhD in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She’s sick of classes, sick of union busting, loving teaching, and loving the incredible work she gets to do with the Community Writing Assistance program through the Writing Center at UWM. She’s glad her passion for breaking community/university divides got sparked while working with Sami Schalk at...
The Bend, issue 8 arrived at the semester’s end thanks to the incredible fortitude, skill, patience and good nature of Carina Finn. Editors included Carina Finn, C.J. Waterman, Levi Sanchez and Elizabeth Franklin with a photo credited to Tasha Matsumoto. Our current students and alumni contributors included: Seth Oelbaum, Monica Mody, Amy DeBetta, Kevin Ducey, Kim Koga, David Ewald, Patricia Connolly, Esteban Galindo, Cynthia VanderVen, Lisa De Niscia, Elizabeth Franklin, Sarah Bowman and Jiyoon Lee. It’s available online at: http://issuu.com/nd_mfa_creative_writing.

The Creative Writing Program Welcomes the Class of 2013.

Matriculation

Prose
Margaret Brandl
University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, BA

Evan Bryson
Valparaiso University, BA

Mary Lattari
University of Maine at Orono, BA
University of Maine at Orono, MA

Steve Owen
California State University-Sacramento, BA
California State University-Sacramento MA

Aliroza Taheri Araghi
Khajeh Nasir Toosi University, BS
University of Tehran, MA

Poetry
Thade Correa
Indiana University Bloomington, BA
University of Chicago, MA

Drew Kalbach
Temple University, BA

Megan Komorowski
California State University Long Beach, BA

Beth Towle
DePauw University, BA

Lauro Vazquez
Dominican College of San Rafael, BA

The 2010 Sullivan Prize winning book In Envy Country by Joan Frank was announced as a finalist for the 80th Annual California Book Awards.

Seth Oelbaum was one of four finalists in The Fifth Annual Chesterton Rhetoric Competition. The topic was the use and abuse of violence, or war: what is it not Good for? Seth’s paper was titled “Janey Smith and the Upside of Chaos.” In the finals Seth was awarded fourth place, and we have a sneaking suspicion it’s because of his controversial views on great dictators of the past and present.

Mentionables & PS

PS: Thanks to C.J. for essentially saving you and Coleen from making random pithy remarks throughout this issue. Please send the old woman, formerly known as queen mum, your current address for an addy check. Trust she’ll never divulge your whereabouts. Remember to SUBMIT to The Bend when the next solicitation arrives. Remember to keep us up to-date, don’t let Facebook rule the world. Always send us your writing and job successes. We must justify our paychecks. And—be well, thanks for your newsletter updates, keep writing—it’s salvation.