

MFA IN WRITING

AUG 2009

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our summer graduates in both MFA in Writing and MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults; we had two amazing residencies and graduation ceremonies. We would like to thank the MFA in Writing graduates for their very generous gift to the MFA in Writing Scholarship Fund. We'd also like to announce that this year's trip to Slovenia was a resounding success and we can't wait to begin planning next year's.

And, for anyone who might want to be thinking about doing a **postgraduate semester for the winter term**, it's not too early. As a reminder, as an alumnus, you are not required to attend the residency and that would reduce tuition by \$725.00 Tuition for a term (and it does award 16 credits) is \$7960 and pg students receive their first choice of an advisor. If you'd like more information you can email us for details.

Don't forget to enter the **Hunger Mountain Creative Nonfiction Prize** (deadline Sept. 10) and the **Ruth Stone Poetry Prize** (deadline Dec. 10). This year's judge for the Creative Nonfiction Prize is Robin Hemley! This year's judge for the Ruth Stone Poetry Prize is Matthew Dickman. See the website for guidelines: <http://www.hungermtn.org/contests/>

The Mighty Mercury site is online at www.MightyMercury.com featuring an interview with Philip K. Dick's ex-wife, Tessa, one with *Taqwacores* author Michael Muhammad Knight, to feature more poetry, short fiction, and serialized long fiction sometime in the next few days. People are encouraged to look at the site and apply.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The Kinship Writers Association will run its inaugural retreat from Sept. 25th to 27th at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, MA. This weekend is built to leave you with a strong dose of inspiration and information. It includes lectures, readings, structured writing exercises, and workshops, all in a beautiful setting that is sure to get you started on that next project or propel you through the one you are working on. Our established guests include: Andre Dubus III, Leslea Newman, Hester Kaplan, Carrie Jones, Andrea Tompa of Candlewick Press and Ammi-Joan Paquette of the Erin Murphy Literary Agency. You may also opt for a specialty critique by Leslea

DENVER AWP ALERT!

For all VCFA folks, if you are planning to attend the 2010 AWP Conference in Denver, please know that MFA in Writing staff and a few faculty will be arriving on Tuesday, April 6 so that we can plan and host an afternoon event on April 7th with you all; **we'd like your input**, too, on just what you would like for an afternoon event; mini—workshops, hands-on, interactive seminar, brief readings by all VCFA attendees, or what? Let us know and then we'll go from there. In the meantime, however, if you are thinking about when to arrive please keep in mind that if you want to participate, you may want to come in on Tues. or Wed. a.m. We will also plan to have dinner together that night – Wed. - with as many of you as might want to attend... more later this fall.

Newman or Carrie Jones! Go here to view the registration form: http://www.kinshipwriters.org/index_files/Retreat_Registration.pdf, or inquire at kinshipwriterse@gmail.com. or 865-804-3196.

Hunger Mountain Now Online

Hunger Mountain has launched an online arts journal! The online incarnation of *Hunger Mountain* debuted on July 31st and has already welcomed thousands of visitors from 35 countries! Like the print version of *Hunger Mountain*, the website is full of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. But *Hunger Mountain* online also has a gorgeous gallery of visual art AND an extensive new young adult and children's literature portion! Congratulations to VCFA alumni editors Anne de Marcken (fiction), Carrie Olivia Adams (poetry), Mike Hemery (creative nonfiction), Taylor Davis-Van Atta (Art and Life), Bethany Hegedus (YA/Children's Lit) and Kekla Magoon (YA/Children's Lit), and VCFA faculty editor Humberto Ramirez (Visual Art) for making *Hunger Mountain* online such a success. Please visit the site at www.hungermtn.org and be sure to check out these highlights: George Saunders's first published story, reprinted in *Hunger Mountain* with a new introduction by Tobias Wolff. New poems by Dorianne Laux and Tomaz Salamun. A celebration of the short story: nonfiction by alumna Claire Guyton. An excerpt from a new novel by Clint McCown! Haunting photographs by Alan deSouza. Essays by award winning children's authors Katherine Paterson, Susan Patron, and Sara Zarr. Visit, enjoy, and make a comment. There's a forum for discussion, and we'd love you to join the conversation. www.hungermtn.org.

Y'all come on down to Texas to attend our very first-ever regional event, the **VCFA Day in the Lone Star State**, to be held on Oct. 2 and 3 in Round Rock, TX (just 20 miles north of Austin, home of one of the most vibrant children's writing communities in the nation). The event will be kicked off with a lovely catered reception at the gorgeous 100-year-old refurbished Ranch House at Teravista, overlooking the 18th hole of a beautiful golf course. Saturday our very own Kathi Appelt and Sharon Darrow are presenting. And an intimate alumni-and-faculty-only dinner is planned for Saturday night. Contact person Debbie Gonzales says that there is plenty of affordable lodging near Teravista or that she will help you find a place to stay. If you are toying with attending there are only a few spaces left. Don't miss out! Be a part of this exciting opportunity to reconnect with one another and to spread the word about our fantastic program. Online registration is available on the VCFA website: <http://www.vermontcollege.edu/low-residency-mfa/writing-children-young-adults>. Feel free to call Debbie at 512-426-6050 or email her at debbadee5@gmail.com if you have any questions. Come on down and get a taste of that famous southern hospitality!

CONTESTS & CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Aesthetica Magazine, a UK-based arts and culture publication, features current arts news from around the world. *Aesthetica Magazine* has sections dedicated to visual arts, film, literature, theatre and music. They are keen to establish cross-Atlantic ties as a reflection of the international nature of arts and culture today. They are currently looking for entries to the Aesthetica Creative Works Competition, and have a special promotional code for student use. To submit entries students should visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm and enter **promotional code ACWC9**. Aesthetica's 2009 Competition has three categories: Artwork & Photography, Fiction and Poetry. One winner in each category will be awarded £500 (approx \$760); winners and runners up will be published in the Aesthetica Annual 2010 edition. Entry to the Creative Works Competition is £10 (approx \$15) (**£5 for students with promotional code ACWC9**); the entry fee allows the submission of either 5 images, 5 poems, or 2 short stories. The closing date for the Creative Works Competition is 31 Aug. 2009. **Full Terms and Conditions:** www.aestheticamagazine.com

CERISE PRESS, an international online journal based in the United States and France, builds cross-cultural bridges by featuring artists and writers in English and translations, with an emphasis on French and Francophone works. The journal hopes to serve as a gathering force where imagination, insight, and conversation express the evolving and shifting forms of human experience. Published 3x/year, each issue includes poetry, translations, prose, interviews,

reviews, art, and photography. Authors have included Tess Gallagher, Eleanor Wilner, Laura Kasischke, Ray Gonzalez, James Harms, Robert Kelly, Patricia Fagnoli, Karen An-Hwei Lee, Pura López-Colomé (translated by Forrest Gander), Anna Akhmatova, Osip Mandelstam, Boris Pasternak, Marina Tsvetaeva (translated by Tony Brinkley with Raina Kostova), Hai Zi (translated by Ye Chun), and Abdelwahab Meddeb (translated by Charlotte Mandell), among others. Please visit website for guidelines: <http://www.cerisepress.com>

Seeking literary stories and personal essays for an anthology on *Healing After the Betrayal of an Extramarital Affair*. We are interested in well-crafted, emotionally honest stories, essays or excerpts where genuine healing has occurred, either within the marriage or separately. We are not looking for interview-type recounts of the experience or self-help pieces. Rather we want compelling work with literary merit. The relationship can be a traditional marriage or a long-term relationship and we hope to represent a range of couples with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual preference, age. Any tone from painful to humorous is acceptable. See the Modern Love column in the Sunday *New York Times* for an example of the type of writing we are looking for. Open to previously published or unpublished work and excerpts from longer works, we are hoping to have many of the essays collected by Jan. 30th so we can present proposals to editors who have expressed interest, although the final deadline is still open. Manuscripts should be between 1000-6000 words, maximum of 18 pages double spaced. Include a cover page with name, address, email, and/or telephone number, title of your work. Enclose SASE with sufficient postage if you want your manuscript returned. Send manuscripts to: K. Sheahann, Submissions – Healing, 12618 La Cresta Court Los Altos Hills, CA 94022; or email submission to sheahan.k@gmail.com as ms word compatible document and also paste it into the body of the email.

Flatmancrooked (recently recognized by *Esquire* as one of the top 5 online literary journals in the U.S.) is seeking the best short story for our next collection -- *Excellent Writing Done During a Period of Great Fiscal Renewal*. Guest Editor Aimee Bender (author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt*, *An Invisible Sign of My Own*, *Willful Creatures*, recipient of the Pushcart Prize and professor of creative writing at Univ. of Southern California) will help select the best short story for the collection. \$1,000 for first prize. For more information: <http://www.flatmancrooked.com/2009-flatmancrooked-prize>

MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

ROSS CANTON has four poems forthcoming in the Literary Journal, *War, Literature & The Arts*.

LYN CHAMBERLIN was recently named one of two honorable mentions in the competition for the 2009 International Literary Awards/ Penelope Niven Creative Nonfiction Award at Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. The piece she submitted was "Somewhere in the North Atlantic," which she began and completed in her work with RigobertoGonzalez.

CHRISTY CLOTHIER'S essay "The Controller," which she worked on with Jess Row, has been adapted as part of a one-woman play titled *Coming in Hot*. It will run from September 24-27 in Tucson, AZ, at the Rhythm Industry Performance Factory.

MERRY GANGEMI had a poem accepted by *Chroma Journal* in the UK. The poem will also be recorded and added to the Dickinson Electronic Archives later this year.

NATASHA SARKISSIAN won an honorable mention in the 2009 Lorian Hemingway Short Story Contest with a short story she revised last semester, "Via Pergolesi, 2--Milan". The contest is judged by Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter.

ZAN SILVERSTEIN'S story "Blue Boy" was just accepted for the June '09 issue of *Fogged Clarity*.

MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

DORY ADAMS (7/99) has launched a weekly blog about the influence of imagery on writers and writing. "In This Light" can be found at www.doryadams.com. Upcoming topics include Appalachia, Abandoned Things in America, and guest posts by Slovenian photojournalist Misko Kranjec and North Carolina photographer Tim Barnwell. Dory's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Santa Fe Literary Review*, *The Avery Anthology*, *Hamilton Stone Review*, *Blue Earth Review*, *Hobart*, *Slipstream*, *Forge*, *Word Riot*, *The Oklahoma Review*, *Common Ground Magazine*, *Shalla Magazine*, and *Paper Street*. Her story "Tests and Measurements" which appeared in *Workers Write! Tales from the Clinic* has recently been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

CAROL BACHOFNER's (7/04) second book of poems, *Breakfast at the Brass Compass*, is out as of two weeks ago from Front Porch Editions.

MONICA BERLIN (7/02) was awarded tenure and promotion at Knox College, Galesburg, IL, where she continues to serve as Associate Director of the Program in Creative Writing. Recently, she reviewed Marianne Boruch's *Grace, Fallen from for Black Warrior Review*, has been an assistant poetry editor for *Fifth Wednesday Journal* for the last three issues, and has served as a contributing editor for *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. Recent poems have appeared in *New Orleans Review*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Diagram*, *Tammy*, and *Rhino*. In late spring, she won the Thomas R. Hruska Memorial Nonfiction Prize from *Passages North* and her essay, "The Eighteenth Week," will be published in a forthcoming issue. Other work is forthcoming in the anthology *Chicagoland* and in *Third Coast*.

RANDALL BROWN (7/06) recently accepted a position teaching in the Rosemont College graduate writing and publishing program. His essay "Making Flash Count" is now available in *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field* (www.rosemetalpress.com/Catalog/Field%20Guide_more.html). Work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Timber Creek Review*, *Minnetonka Review*, *Stand Magazine*, *Eclipse: A Literary Journal*, *Worcester Review*, *Plain Spoke*, *Pennsylvania English*, *Linnet's Wings*, *Gargoyle*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *Quick Fiction*, *Brand*, *Redivider*, *RE:AL*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Isotope*, *Grey Sparrow Press*, *Big Muddy*, *Palo Alto Review*, *FRIgg*, and elsewhere, including recent anthologies from Bannock Street Books. He can be found promoting (very) tiny fictions both at *FlashFiction.Net* (<http://flashfiction.net>) and *SmokeLong Quarterly* (<http://smokelong.com>). He will be reading as part of Upwords Reading Series in Pittsburgh, PA on Sept. 11, 2009.

JOAN CANBY's (1/08) poem "Oak" appeared in the *California Quarterly*.

REBECCA COOK (1/09) received a tuition scholarship to the 2009 Breadloaf Writers' Conference.

NANETTE CRANE's (7/06) new short story "Coming Clean" was accepted for presentation at the Southern Women Writers Conference at Berry College in Georgia in Sept. She was married in June to long-time love, Dr. Julian Post.

MOJIE CRIGLER's (1/09) story "Bury Me Here" will run in the Winter 2010 issue of *The Chesapeake Reader*.

WRITING FOR STAGE & SCREEN

Writing for Stage & Screen

Conference: June 11-17, 2010

Are you a playwright or screenwriter looking for a way to take your script to the next stage of development? Professional playwrights, screenwriters, and teaching faculty will help you hone your script writing, and provide instruction on all levels of craft. Small workshops, guest speakers, movie viewings and discussions, and lots more; optional one-on-one critiques of manuscripts. Registration is open: complete and return the registration form at <http://www.vermontcollege.edu/stage-screen> or

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,M3,1634ea5bdc5f-4a25-a79d-8aca342c2eea>

Registration fee is \$1200 (\$1100 for early registrants); includes all conference events, meals, and a private dorm room. **Registration deadlines are February 28 (early) and May 15 (final)**. If you register in advance of the early deadline, you may hold your place with a \$200 deposit as long as full payment is made by Feb. 28.

JEWEL BETH DAVIS (1/08) had her creative nonfiction piece, "Weighty Dilemma," published in *American Diversity Report* in June 2009.

DEBORAH DENICOLA (1/83) has had poetry published recently in *Lalitamba*, *Umbrella* online, *The Tononpah Review*, *The Cortland Review* and has poetry forthcoming in *New Millennium*, *Tiferet* and a poem selected by Dorianne Laux for *The Best of the Web 2008 Anthology*. Her spiritual memoir *The Future That Brought Her Here; Memoir of a Call to Awaken* was just released by Nicolas Hays/Ibis Press <http://www.thefuturethatbroughtherhere.com/>
Deborah's collection of poems *Original Human* is forthcoming in 2010 from Word Press.
She teaches dream image work and writing off her web site www.intuitivegateways.com

EVAN FALLENBERG (1/01) won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction.

CHRISTY FERRATO (7/08) had a poem recently published in the summer 2009 edition of *The Minnetonka Review*. She will be giving a spoken word performance the upcoming International Music Jamboree and Solar Fest in Chaco Rio, NM.

NANCY FITZPATRICK (1/05) received the 2008 President's Award from the Washington County (NY) Historical Society for her "remarkable creative energy and dedication to the Society's advancement." Nancy also recently completed a six-month honorary position as citizen journalist for *The Post-Star*, a New York state daily newspaper. Both projects are connected with research for a novel-in-progress.

PAM GEMIN (1/01) will have *Another Creature* published by the Univ. of Arkansas, as a finalist for the Miller Williams Prize. The book comes out in March or April of 2010.

SAM HALPERT's (7/90) book, *A Real Good War*, is recognized in the First and Second Looks section of the current issue of *Narrative Magazine* at <http://narrativemagazine.com/>

MIRIAM HANSEN (1/98) had a story published on *Chesapeake Reader.com*. The link is <http://www.chesapeakereader.com/home.html>

DEIRDRE HEekin (7/97) had two new books published in June: *Libation: A Bitter Alchemy* and *In Late Winter We Ate Pears: A Year of Hunger and Love*. Both were published by Chelsea Green.

DIANNA HENNING (1/89) was awarded a California Council for the Humanities Grant and worked with Maidu, Pit River and Paiute—telling their stories. This project resulted in an anthology entitled *Small Moments in Time*, a title she dislikes but was overruled, which she co-edited with another writer. *Poets & Writers* granted Dianna with a workshop series she continued, after the Humanities grant expired, at the Native American Rancheria. Henning also put together a writing festival through *Poets & Writers* for *National Poetry Month '09* and featured Joelle Fraser, author of *The Territory of Men, A Memoir*. She has recently been accepted as a full member of PEN USA Writers. Her poem "Unearthing the Good" won first place in Radiant Hen Publishing's contest. She has work out or forthcoming in the following: *Psychological Perspectives*; *California Quarterly*; *Tiger's Eye*; *Visions International*; *Poetry Now* and *Hawai'i Pacific Review*. Dianna Henning's new book, *The Broken Bone Tongue*, will soon be released by Black Buzzard.

JENNEY IZZO (7/01) has a story online at the *Green Hills Literary Lantern*. The story is "Holding On" and the link to the current issue of GHLL is <http://ghll.truman.edu/current.html>

MAGGIE KAST (7/01) will soon see the release of *The Crack Between the Worlds: a dancer's memoir of loss and faith*. Launch event is Sept. 24 7:30 pm at Women and Children First bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago, with reception after at Las Manos gallery, just across the street.

JAY KAUFFMANN (7/07) will be the 2009/2010 Writer-in-Residence at Konstepidemin in Gothenburg, Sweden. He has new fiction and nonfiction appearing in *Storyglossia*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Lumina*, *upstreet*, *Mid-American Review*, and indieoma.com.

KATHRYN KAY's (7/04) June Newsletter can be found at this link: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs079/1102566996225/archive/1102606158283.html>

ASHLEY SEITZ KRAMER (7/08) was a finalist for the 2009 Ruth Lily Fellowships.

MARGARITE (HOWE) LANDRY (7/05) had an excerpt from her novel-in-progress, *Blue Moon*, appear in *Provincetown Arts 2009/2010*. Her short story "Out of Egypt" was Honorable Mention in the New Millennium Writings Awards (July 2009), and her short story "Swimmers" will appear in the *Vermont Literary Review* 2009 issue.

LYNN LEVIN (7/00) Lynn Levin's third collection of poems, *Fair Creatures of an Hour*, was just published by Loonfeather Press. Her previous collection, *Imaginarium*, was a finalist for *ForeWord Magazine's* 2005 Book of the Year Award. New poems by Lynn appear in 2009 issues of *Ploughshares*, *Confrontation*, *Lilith*, and *Washington Square Review*, and she is very honored to have received another Pushcart Prize nomination (her eighth). "The Other Henry Harris," her first published short story, is now online in *Press 1*. Lynn's translations of poems by the Peruvian Andean poet Odi Gonzales were recently published in *Parthenon West Review* and *Off the Coast*. Her essay on her correspondence with the late W. D. Snodgrass appeared earlier in 2009 in *Contemporary Poetry Review*. Lynn Levin teaches at The Univ. of PA and at Drexel Univ. where she also produces the TV show, *The Drexel InterView*.

MICHAEL MACKLIN (1/05) has a number of poems in the current issue of the online journal, *from east to west*. (http://www.geocities.com/pj_nights/spring09.html) Also, *Poets and Writers* recently included an article on *The Cafe Review*. Editors for *The Cafe Review* include VCFA grads Bruce Spang, Karen Douglass, and Michael.

REBECCA MARTIN's (1/08) eighth and final dispatch from Moscow is available for viewing at <http://www.mcsweeneys.net/links/moscow/>.

KEVIN MCLELLAN (7/99) has recent or forthcoming poems in journals including: *Arch Literary Journal*, *Drunken Boat*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Interim*, *Queen City Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and *Wheelhouse Magazine*. His chapbook *Round Trip*, a collaborative series with numerous poets, is forthcoming from Seven Kitchens (Spring, '10).

JANET MENDELSON (1/06) reports her nonfiction book on museums in Maine will be published by Countryman Press, a division of W.W.Norton Co., www.countrymanpress.com in Spring '11. A freelance writer whose work often appears in the *Boston Globe* travel section www.bostonglobe.com, *Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors* www.maineboats.com and other magazines, Janet will teach Expository Writing beginning this Fall at Bentley Univ. www.bentley.edu in Waltham, MA.

CYNTHIA RIGGS (1/00) *Death and Honesty*, the eighth book in the Martha's Vineyard mystery series, published by St. Martin's Press, has just been released in May '09.

TYRONE SHAW (1/07) has had a few publications in the past year: "Parsnips" and "Pancakes" were published in *Alimentum*, and "Grazie, Italia" was published in *The Truth About the Fact: An International Journal of Literary Nonfiction*, published out of Loyola Marymount Univ. in Los Angeles.

INGRID SILVERSTEIN's (1/08) short story "Uptown/Downtown" recently won Scratch's 2009 Spring Quarterly Contest and can be read online at: scratchcontest.net. Also, her story "Hysterecovery" which won Scratch's contest for Feb. 2008 has been anthologized in *Scratch Anthology 2008* and is available to purchase on amazon.com for a nominal fee.

CURTIS SMITH's (7/96) story collection, *Bad Monkey*, will be released by Press 53 in Sept. His last novel, *Sound + Noise*, is doing well, and has been made into a movie script, which is being shopped around. This spring, Casperian Books will publish his next novel, *Truth... or something like it*. Sunnyoutside Press will release his essay collection, *The Agnostic's Prayer* in late 2009.

CHRISTINE STARR (7/08) has had more poems accepted to the journal *Manorborn*.

S STEPHANIE's (7/97) new chapbook came out in June with Pudding House Publications. The title is *What the News Seemed to Say* and is available at www.puddinghouse.com.

JENNIFER K. SWEENEY (7/01) has won the James Laughlin Award as well as the 2009 Perugia Press Prize for her second book *How To Live On Bread And Music*.

ALISON TOWNSEND'S (7/92) second book of poetry, *Persephone in America*, winner of the Crab Orchard Open Poetry Competition, was published this spring. One of the poems in the book, "The Favorite," which originally appeared in *River Styx*, has been awarded a Pushcart Prize. Alison continues to teach at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where she is Associate Professor of English, Creative Writing and Women's Studies.

CAROLYN WALKER (1/04) had a piece accepted by *The Writer's Chronicle* (not sure when it will be published) and an essay accepted into the anthology *Gravity Pulls You In*, which is scheduled for publication in 2010.

ENRICO WALLEENDA (1/04) is producing a live performance, called Zirkus Wallenda, for an amusement park using what he learned while attending VCFA. (Story-telling through performance was the topic of his graduating lecture.) The show will be historical fiction of his family and will appear at Playland Amusement Park in Rye, NY June 23-Labor Day.

VALERIE WOHLFELD WELLS (1/83) has poems appearing in or forthcoming in *Cincinnati Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *CutThroat*, and *Studies in American Jewish Literature*.

JAY WHITE (1/90) announces the debut of his first novel *Every Boat Turns South*, a Caribbean thriller wrapped inside a family drama. After serving time in the Caribbean, a desperate sailor brings his haunted past to the bedside of his dying father. You can place a pre-publication order now at Amazon by clicking this link: http://www.amazon.com/Every-Boat-Turns-South-White/dp/1579621880/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1243951522&sr=8-1

TANYA WHITON (7/01) has received The Martin Dibner Memorial Fellowship in poetry. The Maine Community Foundation awards the fellowships annually to promising Maine writers seeking to improve their writing skills. Tanya has taught writing at USM, the Stonecoast Writer's Conference and Lesley College. Program administrator for the Solstice Creative Writing Programs at Pine Manor College, she will be working on a poetry manuscript "Anatomy of a Wave" with support from the Dibner fellowship. This year's judges were poets Sharon Bray and Stuart Kestenbaum. The Dibner fellowship alternates between fiction and poetry.

PAULA YUP's (7/83) manuscript, *This Island*, was a finalist for the Gribble Chapbook Contest.

MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

PHYLLIS BARBER is putting the finishing touches on her collection of essays, *Searching for Spirit*, and has had five of them accepted for publication in *Agni Magazine*, *upstreet*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, and two of them in *Sunstone: Mormon Experience, Scholarship, Issues & Art*.

JODY GLADDING will be reading at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, New Hampshire on Wed., Aug. 19 at 7 PM in conjunction with the release of her new book, *Rooms and Their Airs*, from Milkweed Editions, 2009. The reading is free and open to the public. For more information: www.gibsonsbookstore.com

DOUGLAS GLOVER's short story "Pointless, Incessant Barking in the Night" is coming out in the 2009 edition of *Best Canadian Stories*.

RICHARD JACKSON conducted a week long workshop and reading at the Iowa Summer Writers' Festival. His recent poems appear or will appear in *Indiana Review*, *Cutthroat*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Salt Hill*, *New Ohio Review*, *Brilliant Corners*, *Cerise* (Paris), and in the anthologies *Breathe: 101 Contemporary Odes*, *A Remembered State: Poems from Prague Program*, and *Evensong*. Translations of his poems appear in *Nouri Voima* (Finland) *Helicon* (Israel); and *Amritalok* (India). He has written the introduction for an edition of the poems of the Slovene poet Srečko Kosovel to appear this Fall, and a short essay on Weldon Kees for a book to appear from Univ. of Nebraska Press. He won the Rattle Poetry Prize and his next book, *Resonance*, will appear in Jan.

CLINT MCCOWN has a current story in *Chautauqua*; forthcoming work in *Hunger Mountain*. He taught (and read) at Chautauqua the week of July 26-Aug. 1, and at the Postgraduate Writers Conference at VCFA Aug. 11-17. Also, Clint is this year's final judge for the American Fiction Prize.

CHRISTOPHER NOEL's new book, *Impossible Visits: The Inside Story of Interactions with Sasquatch at Habituation Sites*, is available from Amazon.com. If interested in this topic, you can check out a recent radio interview at <http://www.esnips.com/doc/7b9c1b8f-dde9-4505-b5e1-265f349623ed/JulyRadioShow>. Christopher and Ellen Lesser work with writers, editing manuscripts on a freelance basis. Please visit www.greenmountainprose.org

LESLIE ULLMAN will be teaching in the annual Taos Writing Salon, "Writing from the Imaginative Storm", along with former faculty member Gladys Swan, Aug. 2 – 7 in Taos. The Salon is organized and produced by alum James Nave and recent guest CNF writer and screenwriter Allegra Huston, who originated the Salon in 2004 and teaches in it as well. Leslie is also available for manuscript consultation, from individual works to book-length manuscripts, and can be reached at lullman@utep.edu.

XU XI announces the following publications: fiction/short stories in "Anon." *Upstreet*, Vol. 5, 2009; "Servitude" *Memorious*, Issue 12, '09. www.memorious.org; "Until the Next Century" in the anthology *Another Kind of Paradise*, Cheng & Tsui, Boston, '09; "The Sea Islands" in the secondary school textbook *Star Summit*, Star Publishing Ltd., Hong Kong, '09; "Servitude" (bilingual English/Chinese) *Muse*, Hong Kong, Issue 32, Sept '09 (forthcoming); "Jazz Wife" *The Jazz Fiction Anthology*, Indiana Univ. Press, '09 (forthcoming); cnf/essays: "The Book That Saved My Writing Life" *First City* (annual writers issue), New Delhi, June '09; "Letter from America" (dear Hong Kong series), *Muse*, Hong Kong, Issue 28, May '09; "B.G. The Significant Years" *Hotel Amerika*, Vol 8, No 2, '10 (forthcoming). Critical writing/craft essays: "Global English in Contemporary Asian Fiction" *Imagining Globalization: Language, Identity & Boundaries*, Palgrave MacMillan, '09 (forthcoming); "Playing the Changes" *Now Write!*, Tarcher/Penguin, '10 (forthcoming).

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

STUDENT NEWS

SIMON FILL reports that two of his one-act plays, "The Gift" and "The Room Inside the Room I'm In," have been accepted for publication in *Dramatics* magazine.

SARAH BLAKE JOHNSON's article on page turn devices in picture books has been accepted for publication by the SCBWI Bulletin.

LINDA OATMAN HIGH'S young adult novel in verse *Planet Pregnancy* (Front Street/Boyd's Mills Press) is a YALSA Quick Pick, as well as a Pennsylvania State Librarian's Association "Top 10" book for 08/09. The book was also a VOYA "Perfect 10."

CLETE SMITH reports that Hyperion offered him a two-book contract. The first book, *Grandma's Intergalactic Bed and Breakfast* (working title), will be published in spring of '11. The second book will be out in spring of '12.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

ALUMNI NEWS

KATHI BARON's (7/04) young adult novel, *Shattered*, is being published in Sept. '09 by WestSide Books.

ELIZABETH BLUEMLE's (7/04) new book, *How Do You Wokka-Wokka?*, comes out on Aug. 11. It got a starred review in SLJ and is featured in the Aug. edition of *Parenting Magazine*.

SCHOLARSHIP/AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to our July 2009 scholarship/award winners!

Alumni Gift Award—Mima Tipper
In a Nutshell Short Story Award—Linda Oatman High
Critical Thesis Prize—Daphne Kalmar
Flying Pig Humor Award—Katie Bayerl

MURIEL L. DUBOIS (7/01) announces that her biography for children, *To My Countrywomen: The Life of Sarah Josepha Hale*, has been selected as the featured book representing the state of New Hampshire at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. The annual event, to be held on Sept. 26, 2009, is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The Honorary Chairs are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

NANCY BO FLOOD (1/07), as a member of the online faculty of Kaplan Univ., Psychology Dept., was recognized as one of their outstanding teachers for "excellence in teaching, service, and commitment to students." Nancy reports that it has been rewarding to experience the personal interaction possible "over the net" with students and realize the power of sharing stories.

LIZ GALLAGHER (1/06) reports, "I've joined readergirlz as the Seattle host. Readergirlz (www.readergirlz.com) is the award-winning online book community where members read, reflect, and reach out. My role is to shine a light on local events (via the readergirlz blog) and to welcome traveling YA authors to town, so be sure to get in touch if you've planned a YA book event in the Emerald City!"

LYNDA GRAHAM-BARBER's (1/09) nonfiction picture book *The Animals' Winter Sleep* has been named to the Delaware Diamonds Booklist 2009–2010.

STEPHANIE GREENE (1/07) has received a three-book contract from Putnam for more books in her "Princess Poppy" series of early chapter books. The first Princess Poppy book, *The First Grade Parade*, will be out in the Summer '10.

DONNA GUTHRIE (1/06) wrote with updates about Meet Me at the Corner, which celebrates its two-year anniversary on Oct. 17: "To date I have completed over 80 video podcasts linked to fun websites. Along with www.meetmeatthecorner.org, these four-minute episodes for children can be seen on www.curriki.org and www.teachertube.com. If there are any authors in the NYC area who would like to talk about their books and create a video that can be linked to their site and also promoted on the sites listed above, just let me know. In these tight times when promoting your books can be costly, these free videos add another way to reach your audience."

DIVERSITY IN THE MFA PROGRAM

Diversity in the MFA Program for Writing for Children & Young Adults

This fall, Katie Bayerl and Varian Johnson will be facilitating an online discussion on diversity in the program. We've purposely left the topic vague—we want your opinions, ideas and strategies on how to increase ALL forms of program diversity. If you're interested in being part of the discussion, please contact Katie (ktbayerl@gmail.com) or Varian (varianjohnson@gmail.com) for more information.

JESSICA LEADER (7/09) writes, "I received a grant from the Kentucky Arts Council to research my work-in-progress, *The Book of the Dead*. The story is set on a camping trip, and by the time you read this, I will have journeyed to the wilds of northern Michigan to live and work with a Student Conservation Association trail-maintenance crew. I hope to learn more about camping in the backcountry and felling trees, as those are things my characters certainly know how to do!"

JOANN EARLY MACKEN's (7/00) nonfiction picture book *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* received the Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Children's Literature Award from the American Horticultural Society and the National Junior Master Gardener Program at the 2009 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* is included on the Kansas State Reading Circle 2009 Recommended Reading List. JoAnn spoke on the Nonfiction Bookblast panel with 17 other nonfiction authors at ALA in Chicago on July 12.

CAROLYN MARSDEN's (7/00) new middle grade novel, *Starfields*, set in Chiapas, Mexico, has been acquired by Candlewick.

MARIANNE MONSON (7/06) is excited to announce the sale of her historical fiction chapter book series "The Enchanted Tunnel Series" to Deseret Books, the largest LDS publisher. The first two books, *Pioneer Puzzle* and *Escape from Egypt*, will be released Summer '10.

The companion novel to **MICOL OSTOW's** (1/09) *GoldenGirl, Fashionista*, releases from Simon Pulse on Aug. 25, continuing to integrate narrative form and new media. Micol was also thrilled to receive a starred review from Booklist for her novel, *So Punk Rock (and Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother)*, which released in July from Flux/Llewellyn, and was submitted as her VCFA creative thesis.

ANN PARR (1/04) accepted the Paul A. Witty Short Story Award from the International Reading Association at their annual convention in Minneapolis on May 7. IRA chose Parr's article, "Gordon Parks: Bigger than LIFE," published in *Cricket* magazine, Feb.'08. The award recognizes an original short story that serves as a literary standard to encourage young people's reading of periodicals. It included a stipend of \$1000. Parr most recently completed published book projects in USD 305, sponsored by Salina Arts and Humanities, and USD 379-Clay Center, with more than 600 students.

ALICIA POTTER (1/05) is blogging on children's books at the new online news site "The Faster Times." You can read her column at: <http://thefastertimes.com/childrensbooks>

Goldfish Press accepted **JOYCE RAY's** (7/01) poem "Idyllwater" for inclusion in a two-volume anthology entitled *The World According to Goldfish*. All proceeds from the anthology sales will benefit Heifer Project International.

SHERRY SHAHAN's (7/07) short story "The Last Laugh" appears this month in the *L.A. Times* "Kids Reading Room" page. Her essay "A Few Truths About School Visits" was picked up by *Journal of the Indiana State Reading Assn.*; it originally ran in *The Horn Book*. Her travel article, "Walking Among California Giants," (about Sequoia National Park) was published by *RV Journal* with 7 of her images. Finally, Sherry's "Footloose on Fisherman's Wharf" appeared in *Journal Plus*.

BARBARA STEINHAUSER was named Denver Young Adult Literature Examiner for *The Examiner*, an online ezine. Her responsibilities include writing 3–4 weekly articles covering young adult fiction news, reviews, books, authors, and updates for anyone interested in this genre. Her articles can be found on their Arts and Entertainment channel located here: http://www.examiner.com/National-Arts_and_Entertainment.html.

DEBRA WAINWRIGHT's (1/05) first picture book, *That Kind of Dog*, debuted in May from Pleasant St. Press. Debra is the author and illustrator of this title which was part of her creative thesis at VCFA.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

MARION DANE BAUER has two picture books coming out this fall: *The Longest Night*, illustrated by Ted Lewin, with Holiday House, and *The Christmas Baby*, illustrated by Richard Cowdrey, with Simon & Schuster. *The Very Little Princess*, a novella with illustration by Elizabeth Sayles, will be out in Feb. '10 but actually available in bookstores in time for Christmas.

JULIE LARIOS's poem "All Three Acts of a Sad Play Performed Entirely in Bed" has been set to music as a pocket opera and will be performed as a concert reading (performed from score) by the Five Words in a Line group at the Greenwich House Music recital hall in NYC on Oct. 9. A full staging is planned for Feb. '10. She has also been asked to write an adaptation to the Prologue to a satire based on Monteverdi's opera "Orfeo" for the same performance group. Also, Julie will have poetry appearing in the fall issue of *Ecotone*. And her book *Imaginary Menagerie* was named an Honor Book in the Paterson Prize for Books for Young People. It has also been nominated for the Beehive Award from the Children's Literature Association of Utah.

Eternal by **CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH** (Candlewick, '09) is one of YALSA's 2009 Teens Top Ten Nominees. *Eternal* also is now available as an audiobook from Listening Library/Random House. In addition, Cynthia celebrates the release of two YA short stories. "Cat Calls" appears in *Sideshow: Ten Original Tales of Freaks, Illusionists, and Other Matters Odd and Magical*, edited by Deborah Noyes (Candlewick, '09), and "The Wrath of Dawn," co-authored by Greg Leitich Smith, appears in *Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd*, edited by Holly Black and Cecil Castellucci (Little, Brown, '09).

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