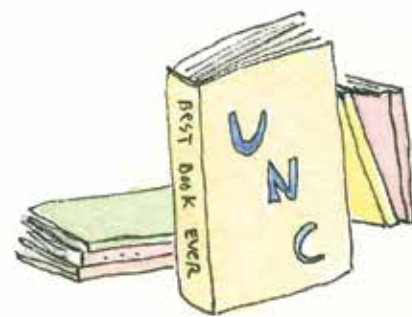


Chapter & Verse



NEWSLETTER OF THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT UNC CHAPEL HILL

In the Fall of 2013 the Creative Writing Program welcomes its future. Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Margaret R. Shuping Fellow in Creative Non-Fiction, and Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Walker Percy Fellow in Poetry, begin their tenure here at Carolina. Welcome! We've asked them to introduce themselves to our readers.

STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST

Hola everybody! Thanks for the opportunity to introduce myself.



Ancestry inspires much of my writing, so let's start there. My mother's family migrated to this nation on muleback from the foothills of Tamaulipas, Mexico, to the cattle ranches of South Texas, where we still live today. My father's family hails from the Kansas prairie and includes a hobo who saw all of America with his legs dangling over the edge of a freight train. Their legacies left me with a closet full of cowboy boots, a habit of drowning my food in salsa, and a bad case of wanderlust.

I hit the road at twenty and have been roaming ever since. Extended pit-stops have included Austin, Seattle, Moscow, Beijing, Havana, El Paso, Brooklyn, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Princeton, and Iowa City, but there was also a three-year stretch of nomadism where my longest stay in any one country or state was two months. Book projects sparked much of my movement—two memoirs, a guidebook, and an anthology of women's travelogues—but so did jobs like editing the English mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party (my official title: "foreign expert"; unofficial title: "propaganda polisher") and driving a Honda Hatchback 45,000 miles across the United States, documenting its socio-political history for a website for kids.

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Summer 2013
Faculty and Alumni News,
Prize-Winning Authors
and More!

Chapter & Verse

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Daniel Wallace, *Editor*

UNC Chapel Hill
Greenlaw Hall, CB#3520
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520

C&V@unc.edu
<http://english.unc.edu/creative>

Phone 919.962.4000
Fax 919.962.3520

GABRIELLE CALVOCORESSI

Dear All,

It's such a pleasure to imagine the days ahead in North Carolina. I've been living under the huge skies of Los Angeles and Texas but as you can see in the poem below, I've been dreaming of and in the trees. When I got to Chapel Hill to look for a place to live I was struck by the deep greens and the birdsong and I thought, "Well, you've gone and entered the poems you've been dreaming." I am a lifelong daydreamer. My family owned movie theaters and drive-ins and I couldn't see very well at all, so the big screen was the clearest thing and I lived inside it. The poem below is an example of that, I suppose. It's a poem about not merely being in conversation with landscape but how when one looks closely enough at something there's the moment where you become that thing, be it a forest or a deer or the river below you. I feel the same way about teaching: how can we come to the place where we inhabit the poem, where our study moves us to the place that we feel the physical properties of a poem the same way we'd comprehend a body? I feel the same way about basketball. And barbecue. I like to have an adventure every single day. I can't wait to be among you.



He's huge. Standing there in the woods where I didn't even see him at first. He doesn't know I'm looking and then he moves a little bit and kicks the ground. I was walking by myself as the sun set. I kept going in deeper to the greenest spot until I found a clearing. He was the clearing. He took the clearing up and stood there still and watched me till I saw him. I saw his shoulders first and then his neck. I think he was so golden in the sun I didn't know what he was. And I thought the branches were his horns. I thought he was an eight point stag. And how his chest made a kind of giant heart out of me out of my eyes looking. And he let me look. He stood there in the green not moving. I thought his horns were leaves. I saw eight branches coming from his head. He didn't stop my looking. He didn't run away. I watched the whole of him. I saw his arms and the taper of his legs. He let me watch him for maybe hours but really moments like a gift. Like when you're almost home and smell them cooking supper but you're still outside and could just turn back around. We stood like that together. He let me touch the whole of him. Every rise and muscle. He let me rest on the hollow of his neck and breathe it in for four whole breaths. He said my name or he shook his head inside the leaves and sighed and let the light come into us. He let the light hold us for a while.



Gabrielle Calvocoressi is a poet and essayist whose most recent book, *Apocalyptic Swing*, was a finalist for The Los Angeles Times Book Award. Her poems have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Boston Review*, *The Washington Post*, on Garrison Keillor's *Poet's Almanac* and in numerous journals and are forthcoming in *Poetry* and *At Length*. She writes the Sports Desk column for The Best American Poetry blog and is on the advisory board of *The Rumpus* Poetry Book Club. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including *The Paris Review's* Bernard F. Connors Prize, a Rona Jaffe Woman Writers Award, a Stegner Fellowship and Jones Lectureship from Stanford University, a Civitella di Ranieri fellowship and Lannan Foundation Residency Fellowship in Marfa, Texas. She sits on the poetry boards of *The Rumpus* and *From the Fishhouse*. She is the Senior Poetry Editor for *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.

Director's Report

Dear Friends,

The Creative Writing Program at Carolina is, as usual, bursting with good news. How could it be otherwise, with the staff, the professors and the remarkable students we're lucky enough to be able to teach each year? It's a scenario that would hardly be credible were it fiction: no real conflict, a surfeit of creativity, happiness all around. Fortunately, I'm not making it up. It's all true.

The Creative Writing Program taught 763 students this academic year, from introductory classes in poetry, fiction and non-fiction, to senior Honors, and, of course, to **Gram-o-Rama**, which this year broke attendance records with the most daring show in its long and illustrious history: there was more laughter, and more blushing, than ever before. Twenty-two seniors completed the arduous, year-long writing seminar in either poetry or prose and wrote book-length theses, graduating with Honors or with Highest Honors this past May. In **Bland Simpson's** senior Honors fiction class, those students were **Madison Owens Bakalar, Sarah Abigail Brady, Hayley Julia Crowell, Chase Tyler Hanes, Taylor Hartley, Arthur Peter Iannacone, Meredith A. Jones, Gloria Elaine Schoeberle, Jared William Shaffer, Heather Victoria Vanwallendael, and William Terrell Wright**; and in **Michael McFee's** Honors poetry class they were **Jacquelynn A. Berton, Duncan Banks Culbreth, Denise Talyor Dubick, Sarah Catherine Edwards, Michael Thomas Lawson, Angela Lin, Benjamin Pearce Miller** and **Kyle Andrew Rosko**. What they've achieved is remarkable, and we wish them all the best.

These Honors students, with the completion of their theses, wrote what is essentially their first book, whether it be a novel, a collection of short stories, or a book of poems, and we hope they go on to write many more. Our faculty—some of whom worked their way through this very program—continue to write and publish their own work. See their individual bios in **Chapter & Verse** for the specifics. Every year finds our professors bringing out another book, publishing

stories and poems in national magazines, and reading all over the state and country. The Creative Writing Program at Carolina is a working program: we teach because we know what works from experience, from our own successes.

One reason professors have time to teach and produce work of their own has less to do with 24/7 access to an imaginary muse than it does to the very real existence of **Anita Braxton**. She is the secret—or not-so-secret—mastermind running this writing machine. She is simply excellent, the recipient of both love and respect from all of us in the program and each and every student who passes through it.

The **Thomas Wolfe Scholarship**—founded in 2001 by author and philanthropist **Frank Borden Hanes, Sr.** (class of 1942), of Winston-Salem—held its twelfth national competition this year. The reading committee members were **Courtney Jones** (BA 2001) and **Claire Lambeth**; and its four board of advisors members were **David Payne** (BA 1977), poetry professor **Jim Seay**, and fiction faculty **Marianne Gingher** and **Bland Simpson**. With pride and pleasure we can announce our 12th Thomas Wolfe Scholar—**Madeline Norris** of Columbia, South Carolina.

Josephine Humphreys received the 2012 **Thomas Wolfe Prize** and delivered the annual lecture on October 2 in the Genome Sciences Auditorium on campus. In her lecture remarks, the South Carolinian traced her connection to “both Carolinas,” reminiscing about her years studying at Duke with **Reynolds Price** (2007 Thomas Wolfe Prize recipient) who later talked of the “constant wise beauty” of her writing. Her first novel, *Dreams of Sleep* (1984) won the PEN/Hemingway Award for the best American first novel; *Rich in Love* (1987) was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and a movie version of it, starring Albert Finney, was released in 1992. *The Fireman's Fair* (1991) was also a *New York Times* Notable Book, and *Nowhere Else on Earth* (2001) won the Southern Book Award. She has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Lyndhurst Prize, and a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The Thomas Wolfe (class of 1920) Award and Medal is made possible by University friend and benefactor Ben Jones III (class of 1950) and



members of the Thomas Wolfe Society as part of the annual lecture series established by the Thomas Wolfe Society.

Mary Karr brought impressive energy, wit, and candor to her role as the **2013 Distinguished Writer-in-Residence**, February 25-March 1. First made famous through her 1995 bestselling memoir *The Liar's Club*, Karr is also

a well-respected poet. In a visit characterized by professional generosity and an exceptional ability to connect with young writers, Karr enriched the experience of our creative writing students and everyone else who came in contact with her during the week. She had many literary fans at Carolina before her visit; she left with countless more. The 2013 Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program is grateful to its sources of support. **The Hibbits family** generously provided Mary Karr's honorarium, thus making her visit possible. **The Department of English and Comparative Literature** and its **Creative Writing Program** provided support for the events of the **Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Week**.

We are fortunate to enjoy two **Armfield Poetry Readings** every year, sponsored by the **Armfield Fund for Poetry**, a bequest to us from the late poet **Blanche Britt Armfield** (MA 1928). Our distinguished poets and readers for 2012-2013 were **Maurice Manning**, author most recently of *The Common Man* (2010), and **Mary Jo Salter**, the author of many books of poetry and co-editor of *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*.

Our friends at UNC are helpful in too many ways to name, but we thank them all: **Department of English and Comparative Literature Chair Beverly Taylor**; our allies and counselors in **South Building**, particularly **Chancellor Holden Thorp, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Karen Gil, Senior Associate Dean Terry Rhodes, Director of Communications Dee Reid**, and **Assistant Director of Communications Kim**

Prize-Winning Writers

Spurr; and especially the **Arts & Sciences Foundation—Executive Director Jamie May, Associate Director Rob Parker, Associate Director of Capital Gifts Margaret V. Costley**, and their staffs.

As always, we recognize the other private funds supporting Creative Writing activities, including the **Rankin Faculty Support Fund**, established by **Alex Rankin** (class of 1977); the **Burrus Fund**, established by **Ann Williams Burrus** (class of 1952); the **Froelich Family Fund**, established to help increase our lecturers' stipends by **Henry** (class of 1981) and **Molly Froelich** of Charlotte; and our **Gift Fund. The Walker Percy** (class of 1937) **Fund**, an endowment to help underwrite our lecturers, was set in motion several years ago by **Frank Borden Hanes, Sr.** (class of 1942). And the **Robert Ruark Award**, for student non-fiction writing about North Carolina's natural world, receives support from the **Ruark Society of Chapel Hill**, led by retired attorney and author **James T. Cheatham III** (class of 1957, 1961 LLBJD). We deeply appreciate the support of these friends of Creative Writing.

Finally, we're very pleased and proud to report that we'll be joined by two new assistant professors in the fall: **Stephanie Elizondo Griest**, the **Margaret R. Shuping Fellow in Creative Non-fiction**, and **Gabrielle Calvocoressi**, the **Walker Percy Fellow in Poetry**. The addition of these two bright and energetic teachers bodes well for the future of this program. This is indeed an exceptional year for us; so many of them are.

Onward!

Sincerely,

Daniel Wallace, *Director*

Creative Writing Program

BLANCHE BRITT ARMFIELD
PRIZE IN POETRY
Emma Carson DeWitt

SUZANNE BOLCH LITERARY
AWARD
Hannah Iva Eck

BLAND SIMPSON PRIZE IN
CREATIVE NON-FICTION
Emily Francis Milks, Winner
Neha Verma, Runner Up

GEORGE B. WYNNE AWARD FOR
FICTION
Mary Clare Mazzochi

ROBERT RUARK AWARD IN
CREATIVE NON-FICTION
Hannah Iva Eck

ROBERT B. HOUSE MEMORIAL
PRIZE IN POETRY
Benjamin Pearce Miller

LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., PRIZE IN
CREATIVE WRITING
Meredith Anne Jones

MAX STEELE PRIZE IN FICTION
Jared William Shaffer
Sarah Abigail Brady

ANN WILLIAMS BURRUS PRIZE
Maria Isabelle Carlos
Honorable Mention: **Michael Thomas Lawson**

MINI-MAX SHORT-SHORT
FICTION PRIZE
Emily Joanna Nixon
Heather Wilson, 2nd Place
Andrew John White, 3rd Place

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GABRIELLE CALVOCORESSI

At the moment, I'm teaching at St. Lawrence University in The North Country, where New York meets Canada and you can snowshoe half the year. It is also the backdrop of my latest book project, which examines life and death in the U.S. borderlands. The chief issues I'm investigating are illegal immigration, environmental justice, and drugs-and-arms smuggling, and how marginalized communities (particularly Chicanos in the south and Mohawk Indians up north) cope with the stresses of each. Quite often, it's through a deep-rooted spirituality that occasionally requires the suspension of disbelief, such as when La Virgen de Guadalupe appears in a cottonwood tree on a downtown median in Brownsville, Texas, backing up traffic for miles, or when the face of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha emerges from the flour on someone's breadboard while they are innocently making dumplings, and everyone comes running with their rosaries.

More than anything, this project has caused me to question the meaning of home, particularly for people who—like myself—live between the borderlines. After nearly two decades of nomadism, I am finally ready to nest. I cannot imagine a more glorious place than Chapel Hill, and am thrilled to be joining the Greenlaw gang this fall. Some of the new courses I'm envisioning are experiential reporting, writing for social justice, the lyric essay, and travel writing. I'll also be challenging students to reflect on that northern/southern border in their own midst, and all the ancestors and legacies within.

Here's hoping you'll swing by or drop a line to say hi, and until that fine day: ¡Saludos!

Stephanie Elizondo Griest is a globe-trotting author and activist from South Texas. Her books include the memoirs *Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana* (Villard/Random House, 2004) and *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines* (Washington Square Press/Simon & Schuster, 2008) as well as the best-selling guidebook *100 Places Every Woman Should Go* (Travelers' Tales, 2007). She has also written for the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Believer*, *Earth Island Journal*, and *Texas Monthly*, and she edited *Best Women's Travel Writing* (Travelers' Tales, 2010).



The Peripatetic Professor

We all live busy lives, but Professor Bland Simpson's life seems busier than most. Here's what a few months in Spring 2013 were like for him. You may want to sit down: reading it might wear you out.

Mar 7th: Don Dixon meets songwriting class; I meet, as member, w/ distinguished professorship selection committee, evening
Mar 8th: Spring Break begins
Mar 9th: Fly to Los Angeles
Mar 10th: Red Clay Ramblers concert, L.A.
Mar 11th: Concert, Palm Desert
Mar 13th: Concert, Livermore
Mar 14th: Concert, Berkeley
Mar 15th: Fly back to Raleigh-Durham
Mar 18th: Spring Break ends
Mar 28th: Songwriting class records 10 songs @ the Rubber Room, Chapel Hill
Apr 8th: Senior honors fiction writing class turns in preliminary final drafts
Apr 14th: Rehearsals for Ramblers' show "Carolina Jamboree" start with Carolina Ballet
Apr 15th: Senior honors final drafts in; final meeting distinguished profs committee
Apr 17th: Dress rehearsal "Carolina Jamboree" @ Raleigh Memorial Auditorium—students from Songwriting and Sr Honors classes attend
Apr 18th: Open "Carolina Jamboree" for 5 shows in Raleigh
Apr 20th: Talk-back after "C Jam" matinee
Apr 21st: Last Raleigh show; strike
Apr 22nd: Day, record "Carolina Jamboree" score with Red Clay Ramblers @ Rubber Room; evening: Senior Honors in Fiction readings, Graham Memorial
Apr 24th: Continue recording "Carolina Jamboree"
Apr 25th: Songwriting Class show; North Caroliniana Society Annual Meeting; evening: Rehearsal for "Carolina Jamboree" at DPAC/Durham
Apr 26th: Afternoon: English/Comp Lit/Creative Writing Honors Reception; evening: final "Carolina Jamboree" show at DPAC
May 3rd: Stories and Songs, Hatteras Island Storytelling Festival, Civic Center, Hatteras, NC



May 8th-10th: Taping, Lumber River Segment for UNC TV "Our State," on Lumber River and at other spots in SE N.C.
May 11th-12th: Sponsor of UNC Honorary Degree Recipient Mary Pope Osborne on Commencement Weekend, presenting her at Commencement
May 13th: Mixing Songwriting Class Album @ Rubber Room
May 16th: Reading, "Two Captains from Carolina," Latimer House, Wilmington, NC; Notes & photography, Intracoastal Waterway, Motts and Banks Channels

May 17th: Notes & photography, Shelter Creek, Burgaw, NC
May 19th: Remarks about longtime collaborator Jim Wann, "Habie Award Winner 2013," UNC NYC Carolina Club Arts Brunch, University Club, New York, NY



Michael Chitwood



Pam Durban



Marianne Gingher



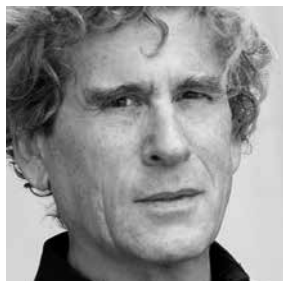
Joy Goodwin



Randall Kenan



Michael McFee



Lawrence Naumoff



Rachel Richardson



Alan Shapiro



James Seay



Bland Simpson



Daniel Wallace



Ross White

STEVE EXUM

MIKE MILSTEAD

ROGER HALE

Faculty News

Michael Chitwood has had poems published in *The Threepenny Review*, *Rattle*, *Antioch Review*, *Seminary Ridge Review*, *The Sun*, *Pleiades*, *NOR*, *Field and Now & Then*. He wrote an article on North Carolina poetry for *Our State Magazine* and adjudicated the Tennessee Arts Commission's poetry fellowships. His poem "Here I Am, Lord" was selected to be on Bucknell's *Poetry Path*, both in print form and as a recording. Tupelo Press will publish his eighth book of poetry, *Living Wages*, next year.

Pam Durban's novel, *The Tree of Forgetfulness*, was published by LSU Press in Fall, 2013.

Marianne Gingher received a Teaching and Technology grant and will be on sabbatical in Fall 2013, studying puppetry arts, teaching at the National Puppetry Festival at Swarthmore College in August, and developing a digital archive of Gram-o-Rama exercises. This spring she and her puppet collaborator created and produced their fourth puppet show for adults (about cats and dogs and the people who love them) titled *UNLEASHED!* As per their other shows, the play features "brief puppet nudity." The show will be reprised at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro this September. Read more at www.jabberboxpuppettheater.com.

Joy Goodwin produced *May in the Summer*, an opening-night film at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. She is also a producer of the forthcoming *Black Nativity* (Fox Searchlight, November 2013). Her screen adaptation of William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust* has been optioned by Picture Entertainment and will be directed by Debra Granik (*Winter's Bone*).

Randall Kenan was on the faculties of The Sewanee Writers' Conference, Voices of Our Nation Writer's Workshop (UC-Berkeley), and the Aspen Summer Words Retreat. He gave readings in Oklahoma, Oregon, Louisiana, and Washington, DC, and gave the keynote address, "The Hog of Life: Meditations on North Carolina Barbecue," at the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi in Oxford last October, where he was also one of the keynote speakers at the William Faulkner Conference in July. He has published essays on writers and on film, and has published short fiction in *Ploughshares* and the *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

Michael McFee (class of 1976) taught the wonderful year-long senior Honors in Poetry Writing class: each

of the nine poets wrote, revised, and organized 1000 or so lines into a book-length manuscript of poems. He also published poems and essays in such places as the *Hudson* and *Southern* and *Cincinnati Reviews*, and gave readings for the Hillsborough Literary Association at Burwell School and for the Charlotte Writers' Club at Central Piedmont Community College.

Rachel Richardson, currently the Kenan Visiting Writer at UNC, has won a 2013-14 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and has poems and prose forthcoming this fall in the *Kenyon Review*, *Texas Review*, on the Poetry Foundation website, and in Poet Laureate Ted Kooser's national news-paper column, *American Life in Poetry*. Her first book, *Copperhead*, was published by Carnegie Mellon in 2011, and she is at work on another.

Alan Shapiro's most recent book, *Night of the Republic*, was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Griffin Prize. His new book, *Reel to Reel*, is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press.

In the Fall of 2012, **Bland Simpson** (class of 1973) published his latest non-fiction novel, *Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy, John Newland Maffitt and the Coming of the Civil War* (UNC Press); gave readings at UNC, NC Maritime Museum (Beaufort, NC), NC Maritime History Council (Hatteras, NC), and U.S. Naval Heritage Center (Washington, DC); and was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Pamlico Writers Conference (Washington, NC). As a Red Clay Rambler, he performed in the run of the Ramblers-Carolina Ballet collaboration "Carolina Jamboree" (April '13) and toured widely during the year, including: LEAF (Black Mountain, NC), Philadelphia Folk Festival, Kent State Folk Festival, and an L.A.-Palm Desert-Bay Area California tour (March '13). He serves on the boards of the NC Coastal Federation and the North Caroliniana Society.

Daniel Wallace published his fifth novel, *The Kings and Queens of Roam*, in Spring, 2013. He was the screenwriter for "A Family of Clowns," a short film which debuted at the New York City International Film Festival in Summer, 2013. A short story, "Everyone Is Some Kind of Animal," was published in the *North Carolina Literary Review* in June, 2013. A musical based on his first novel, *Big Fish*, will premiere on Broadway in Fall, 2013.

Ross White's poem "Ocean Quahog" was featured in *Best New Poets 2012*, edited by Matthew Dickman. He received honorable mention for the Randall Jarrell Prize, and he served on the faculty for the North Carolina Writers' Network's fall and spring conferences. Recent work appeared or is forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *Texas Review*, and *StorySouth*.

How to Become a Writer

Since her graduation from Carolina in 2010, **Delaney Nolan** has been busy. Her fiction has appeared in *Oxford American*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The South Carolina Review* and elsewhere. She's also recently been a waiter at Bread Loaf, a Sozopol fiction fellow in Bulgaria, and a Klaustrid artist-in-residence in Iceland. At our request she's written in with an overview of her life and writing.



First, write a story about elves. Get a little older. Finish elementary school; middle school; high school. In college, spend two years being chronically late to your creative writing classes (or don't). Apologize profusely.

For the class: Write a good story about fruit. Then a bad story about witches. Then a good story. Go back and forth, in this pattern, pretty much forever.

After graduation, move south, into a small house by a big river. Get a bad job. Invite friends to live in your tiny detached laundry room. Move the tattered couches out onto the driveway. Get a typewriter and write many tiny pretend poems and stick them on the walls throughout the house: "Instructions for staying young: / never / ever /ever brush your teeth."

Live cheaply. Wear a coat you found at a bar's lost & found; it's okay, it's a nice coat. Read lots of stories, online, while you're at work. Submit some of your own. Get rejected.

Get a small and freakish dog. Go on many bad dates. Explain to said dates that you have a condition where you cannot eat without spilling food on yourself. Spill food on yourself. Get dumped. Write a sad story. Go on dates again. Drive to Texas. Get arrested. Go back home.

Get a short story published in a minor literary magazine. Do not dismiss this. Celebrate. Submit and get rejected and get rejected.

Move into a smaller house, farther from the river. Work a worse job. Get rejected from grad school. Write many short stories about a dark and dying carnival. Go to an art museum on a warm December night and sneak into an off-limits room where you end up covered head-to-toe in fluorescent powder; get kicked out of the art museum; wreck your car on the way home. Start to panic.

Keep working. Bike to work, now that your car's gone. Keep reading. Keep writing. Investigate the possibilities. Believe that mistakes can be retrieved. Apply for a fellowship in Bulgaria although you have never been to Bulgaria and are not entirely clear on where that country is.

Bike across the city every day and see many beautiful things: an old couple on the median playing chess; an open-faced bright pink house; a front garden strewn with flower-filled toilets. Do not miss your car as you once thought you would.

Discover that you have been awarded said Bulgarian fellowship and will be flying soon to Sofia.

So fly to Sofia. Look at the poppies on the hill. Look at the enormous sea. Look at the same moon you knew.

When you return to America, although you will be afraid, decide that you want that kind of life. Move to a new city, where you write, and email agents, and get some stories published, and make a little money, and draw faces on every cigarette in the pack so that you have someone to talk to.

And you are still very unsure, very nervous, and very broke. Keep working. Keep writing. Write a short piece for *Chapter & Verse*, and realize, towards the end, that you've accidentally copied a piece by Lorrie Moore.

Send it anyway. Slightly late. Apologize profusely.



Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program, 2013

With her spirited visit, Mary Karr successfully launched the new Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program. The program builds upon the twenty-year legacy of the Morgan Writer-in-Residence Program. In the same tradition, the Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program endeavors to give our creative writing students and the Carolina literary community access to significant writers of our time.

Creative Writing thanks the Hibbits family for its support of the Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program. Richard and Ford Hibbits and their family generously provided Mary Karr's honorarium, which facilitated her visit to Chapel Hill. Richard is a Carolina alum from Raleigh (Business, class of 1971), as is his son John (Journalism and Creative Writing, Class of 2009). The Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Creative Writing Program funded the events associated with Karr's week-long



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM TERHUNE

Sarah Dessen (class of 1994), left, and Courtney Mitchell (class of 2001), right, with Mary Karr

2012 Thomas Wolfe Award

The Thomas Wolfe Prize recognizes Josephine Humphries, a writer who has made a significant contribution to writing in the humanities and whose work befits the ambition and scope shown by that of Thomas Wolfe. The range of Humphreys' fiction and her insistence upon exploration of the human spirit made her a most deserving recipient.



Alumni News

CLASS OF 1977

Warren Rochelle's two most recent publications are "Remembering Ray Bradbury (1920–2012): Bradbury Frightened, and Delighted, Readers," in *The Free Lance-Star* <<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2012/062012/06092012/706705>> and "The Boy on McGee Street," in *Queer Fish*, Volume 2 (Pink Narcissus Press, 2012).

CLASS OF 1988

After receiving a wad of terse rejection letters written on heavy paper, **Scott Martin** self-published his novel, *Satisfaction*. He also placed 2nd and 3rd in the Creative Loafing fiction contests held in Charlotte sometime last millennium. He's also written or edited 18 books, including the very vital: *The Book of Caddysback—Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Greatest Movie Ever Made* (Taylor Trade). He's mostly a direct response copywriter, helping companies around the world generate leads and sell stuff. So...if for any reason, or no reason, you're not totally and completely satisfied with this entry, you can contact Scott for a prompt and courteous refund: scott@scottmartinwriting.com.



CLASS OF 1994

Landscape with Missing Person, a new play by poet and playwright **John Crutchfield**, will be presented at the New York International Fringe Festival in August, 2013. For more info, visit johncrutchfield.com.

William Conescu and his partner, Austin, became dads last fall. And this coming November, his second novel will be released. It's called *Kara Was Here*, and it tells the story of a struggling actress and the people and questions she left behind after her sudden death. It's set in North Carolina and New York, and folks can learn more about it at www.williamconescu.com.

Jennifer Henderson was the first recipient of the Margaret Taylor writing prize. For this award the selection committee unanimously recommended *The North Carolina Reinvestment Act*, edited by Jennifer Henderson and written by Jamie Markham.

CLASS OF 1995

Scott Nadelson published his fourth book in the spring. It is a memoir titled *The Next Scott Nadelson: A Life in Progress*.

CLASS OF 1996

Brian Blanchfield teaches creative writing at the University of Arizona and runs Intermezzo, a reading series in downtown Tucson. His second full-length book of poetry, *A Several World*, is forthcoming from Nightboat Books in March 2014, and his chapbook—*The History of Ideas, 1973–2012*—is coming out this Fall.

Culley Holderfield professionally works in community development at Self-Help Credit Union in Durham, NC. Although it may seem he has strayed from his days in the Creative Writing program at UNC, he regularly put his literary skills to use with over-achieving, brilliantly wrought e-mails that no one reads. When not at the office, he still spends time at his writing desk. He is currently marketing a spy thriller that began as his honors thesis at UNC and is finally finished after 16 years of research, edits, and revisions. He is working on the third revision of his second novel, a historical mystery set in the Southern Appalachians in the 1890s, hoping that it is nearly complete, but fearing there is much left to do.

Dan Kois is a senior editor at *Slate*, where he edits the *Slate Book Review*. At *Slate* he's recently been delighted to publish criticism by **Jonathan Farmer '96**, and to recommend the books of **Mur Lafferty** (class of 1995) and **Sarah Dessen** ('93). He lives in Arlington, VA, with his wife **Alia Smith** (UNC Journalism '96) and his daughters Lyra, (class of 2027), and Harper, (class of 2029).

CLASS OF 1997

Richard Allen has recently published poems in *Makeout Creek* and in the anthology *Another and Another: An Anthology From the Grind Writing Series* (Bull City Press). He is also currently serving as a board member of the Hinge Literary Center. He lives outside of Chapel Hill and practices law in Durham.

CLASS OF 1998

Laura Emerson is looking forward to starting her days ahead with writing instead of heading off to work. She will be retiring as of June 28th!

CLASS OF 1999

Ali Fischer is living in The Netherlands, teaching legal and Academic writing at the University of Amsterdam law school and celebrating, with her partner, Marcel, the birth of their son, Miles Johannes. She expresses that visitors are always welcome!

John Ikeda will be graduating from Harvard Kennedy School of Government this May, where he has

been working on a masters degree in development economics. John has accepted a position at the World Bank working on water and sanitation issues, and although it's not fiction writing, he will use the creative writing and journalism skills he developed at Carolina every day, and will be drawing on these skills heavily in his new job. He will be traveling frequently with this position, and hopes to use these experiences when (eventually) he finds the time to sit down and work on his first novel.

CLASS OF 2000

Anne Beatty's essay "Survival Skills at a School in LA" was published in the Winter 2013 edition of *The American Scholar*. She is a high school English teacher and lives in Greensboro.

Lisa Bennett lives in Carrboro and still writes poetry. She teaches pre-school and works in ceramics.

Adam Weinstock sold a pitch to 20th Century Fox for a film built around the Electronic Dance Music craze.

CLASS OF 2001

Kimberly O'Connor began teaching as a Youth Outreach Instructor for Denver's Lighthouse Writers Workshop this year. She had poems published in *Copper Nickel* and *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and more are forthcoming in *Tar River Poetry*. She also started a blog called *Poet's Guide to Motherhood*. Nonfiction pieces of hers about motherhood and writing were published on the *Hayden's Ferry Review* blog and more are forthcoming on *Literary Mama*. Her blog's website is poetsguidetomotherhood.com.

Meagan Patterson's update is that she was recently granted tenure and promotion to associate professor. She is in the educational psychology program at the University of Kansas.

CLASS OF 2002

Wendy Spitzer was recently selected for and attended ISLAND's Hill House residency in Bellaire, Michigan, to complete a film score to an animated short from 1912, to be premiered later in 2013. She is also releasing her second album under the

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moniker Felix Obelix in November 2013, with a series of performances (in conjunction with an art exhibit) at the Carrack art space in Durham, NC. The album is a collection of 30 one-minute-long pieces scored for keyboard, bass, voice, cello and mallet percussion, and intended for download as cellphone ringtones.

CLASS OF 2003

Atinuke Diver's essay "Running Into Glass Doors" will appear in the forthcoming book, *Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank About Faith*, slated for publication in October 2013 by White Cloud Press, and edited by Enuma Okoro and Erin Lane. Anyone interested in the project or Indiegogo campaign can visit www.webtalk-ingtaboo.com to learn more. Atinuke was also selected by Ms. JD as a 2013 Writer-in-Residence, and will be writing the monthly column "One And Only." And lastly, she has been selected for a writing residency at Wellspring House in Ashfield, Massachusetts, to complete a fiction and some non-fiction projects.

Kerri French's poetry has recently appeared in *Mid-American Review* and *Waccamaw* and has also been anthologized in *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, *Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence*, and *Becoming: What Makes a Woman*. *Instruments of Summer*, her chapbook of poems on the life of Amy Winehouse, will be published by Dancing Girl Press this summer. She lives in Cambridge, England, with her husband and daughter, and works as a freelance writer.

Duncan Pittman graduated from Carolina with a B.A. in Communications-Media Studies and Production, with an emphasis in screenwriting and film criticism, and Minor in Creative Writing. She participated in the UNC Hollywood Internship Program as an intern at Artisan Entertainment (now Lionsgate). She followed that experience with an publishing internship at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. Duncan worked for several years in the DVD post production industry in Santa Monica, CA, before returning to the classroom as a scholarship recipient at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Duncan recently completed her M.A. in Cinema Studies at SCAD. While there, she produced a strong portfolio of writing, and trained as an educator. She also maintained a 4.0 gpa, and received a high pass on her comprehensive exam. Her master's thesis, "West of Eden: A Silent Generation Warning to California Against the Dangers of the Counterculture in Clint Eastwood's *Play Misty for Me*," examined the film and argued that it is a Silent Generation warning against the dangers of the counterculture invasion of California in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

CLASS OF 2005

Lucy Bryan Green teaches creative writing and composition at Penn State University, where she graduated with an M.F.A. in Creative Writing in 2011. Over the past year, she published two short stories: "The Club" in the April 2013 issue of the *Journal of the Center for Mennonite Writing* and "Chicken Therapy" in the December 2012 issue of *Superstition Review*. Her lyric essay



"Melt" won the 2013 Nonfiction Contest for *So to Speak: a feminist journal of language and art*, and her novel, *Guarding Eden*, was a semi-finalist for the 2012 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Competition. In December, she completed her Wilderness First Responder certification, and this summer, she is working as a backpacking guide in Yosemite National Park.

Dianna (Calareso) Sawyer continues to work as a copywriter and freelance editor. Recently, she published essays in *Glassworks Magazine*, *Saw Palm*, *Turk's Head Review*, and *MARY*. All published work and recent writing can be found at diannacalareso.com. In addition, Dianna launched her own writing services business, Brown Envelope, offering writing coaching, editing, submission, and publishing services to creative writers. See brownenvelope-writing.com for more information.

CLASS OF 2007

Caroline Hamilton is working as the Director of Individual Giving at the School of American Ballet in New York, and had her first essay "Gala Girl" published in the *The New York Times* Opinionator.

Teresa Lee is completing her biology Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. She writes, "Our campus puts out popular science magazine each semester, highlighting research from our professors. I've written two features this past year, which can be found at sciencereview.berkeley.edu/read/. I'm pretty sure that neither my mother nor boyfriend has read them in their entirety, so the bar for that readership is set pretty low. But it felt great to stretch some writing muscles."

Marielle Prince received her MFA from the University of Virginia in May and plans to remain in Charlottesville for the immediate future, where she contentedly works at the Blue Whale Bookshop. She is the editor

of *Lithopedia*, a stunning collection of poems by Anne Keefe (Bull City Press, 2012), and she served as poetry editor of *Meridian* for the '11-'12 academic year. Since her last update (C&V 2010), her poems have appeared in *The Collagist*, *Waccamaw*, *Shenandoah*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Lumina*, *32 Poems*, and *The Greensboro Review*.

CLASS OF 2008

Tanner McSwain is currently in Chicago. In 2012, he opened a used bookstore in the Logan Square neighborhood called Uncharted Books (unchartedbooks.com). It won Best New Bookstore in the Chicago Reader last year (<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/best-new-bookstore/BestOf?oid=6693620&keywords=>), and they are up for Best Bookstore this year. Tanner has a really cute white husky named Ramona. For any other UNC expats in Chicago, the store is at 2630 N. Milwaukee Ave. and is open Monday-Friday 1-9 and Saturday and Sunday 10-10.

CLASS OF 2009

Travis Smith received his M.F.A. from the University of Mississippi in May. His most recent poems appear or are forthcoming in *Crazyhorse*, *Redivider*, *Meridian*, and *Parcel*.

CLASS OF 2010

John McElwee is the new fiction coordinator for the *New Yorker*.

Delaney Nolan's fiction has recently appeared in *Oxford American*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The South Carolina Review* and elsewhere. She's also recently been a Bread Loaf waiter, a Sozopol fiction fellow in Bulgaria, and a Klaustriad artist-in-residence in Iceland. She currently lives in Istanbul and really misses cheddar cheese.

IN MEMORIUM

Frank Borden Hanes, Sr.
(Class of 1942)

Julie "Teej" Teasdale
(Class of 2010)





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—*Holden Thorp*
Chancellor, 2008-2013

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I have a novel inside of me.
No, I mean literally: I just
ate
Ulysses.

