

Summer 2012
CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT
San Francisco State University
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Dear Students, Faculty, and Alumni:

Welcome to fall semester, 2012. I first want to bid farewell to President Robert Corrigan, a strong and faithful supporter of the Creative Writing Department, and welcome our new president, Dr. Leslie Wong. Under his leadership we will continue to be an exceptional program and source of pride to the university as we educate and launch students into the world of arts and letters. I also want to sincerely thank Associate Deans Susan Shimanoff and Todd Roehrman for their excellent service and Dean Paul Sherwin for his inspired vision and fortitude in making our new big college, Liberal & Creative Arts, a dynamic, exciting, and smooth-running center for work and study and for his continued support of our programs.

In this spirit I also want to tell you of the wonderful collaborations that have begun within the larger structure of the college with the Art Department (in Book Arts and events jointly sponsored by Professor Mark Johnson of the SFSU Gallery and Director Steve Dickison of our Poetry Center); the Cinema Department, where CW students have collaborated with animation professor Martha Gorzycki; and the Theater Department, where Professor Roy Conboy stages many plays by our graduate students. This semester Peter Orner is team-teaching Journalism 667, Literary Journalism, with Professor Yumi Wilson; and there exist many continuing opportunities for our students to take courses in English, Humanities, Modern Greek Studies, Comparative and World Literature, Foreign Languages, and in departments outside the college such as Latina/Latino Studies. It is a fertile moment to plan shared ventures and to seek working partnerships with more departments.

Our own department is fortunate to have several new faculty members: tenure-track hire and Assistant Professor Chanan Tigay joins us in fiction and creative non-fiction. He has an extensive background in journalism, particularly in coverage of the Middle East, has taught at Stanford University and recently been a fellow at the UC Berkeley's School of Journalism. We also welcome our new GTAs and lecturers Heather June Gibbons (poetry) and Cooley Windsor (fiction).

We were saddened in spring by the loss of our wonderful professor and dear friend, Professor Stacy Doris. The department and her graduate students have commemorated her in many forms including memorial readings and journals; the work they produce will be profoundly influenced by her lasting legacy. She was a source of great intelligence and humane mentorship to many poets; she is greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to work and study with her.

Our award-winning department magazines, *Transfer*, *Fourteen Hills* and *New American Writing*, continue to offer opportunities for students to publish, edit, and intern. Our nationally treasured Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives offers readings, recordings, and an expanding digital archives on DIVA by internationally recognized poets and writers; our student reading series, VelRo, provides weekly events. Our courses Writers on Writing and Business of Creative Writing host guests to discuss their new books, their publishing ventures, and to offer advice on how to become working members of the greater literary community. Our Community Projects in Literature class enables students to intern at schools, senior centers, theaters, publishing houses, museums, and arts organizations such as our own Poetry Center, 826 Valencia, and the Voices of Witness Project.

Congratulations to so many of you who have won awards, published books, started websites and blogs and magazines, as well as off-campus reading series. We are proud of those of you who have found teaching, editing, and writing positions. If you are a graduate of our program, we thank you for your continued support which provides much of our budget for supplies, scholarships, student travel, directors for student plays, and other essentials. Continue to create and to serve the community—we want to hear how Creative Writing majors continue to engage in the world.

Sincerely,

Maxine Chernoff, Chair of Creative Writing

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS NEWS * NEWS * NEWS

Faculty

Eyewear Publishing of London will release a second selected poems of **Maxine Chernoff** in 2013. Recent poetry publications can be found in *Iowa Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Colorado Review*, and *The Nation*; also she's received an international scholar fellowship, lecturing at the University of Exeter, England, in January 2013. In Spring 2012 the first ever Pacifica Pier Poetry Walk and Pier Community Celebration took place and was the result of an ORSP Creative Work grant **Toni Mirosevich** received. Both events were great successes due to the help and participation of many students, alumni, faculty and staff in the CW, Philosophy, and Business departments. Toni has new fiction and nonfiction in forthcoming issues of *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Gastronomica*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Phoebe*. The Venezuelan publisher Monte Ávila published an edition of **Paul Hoover's** work in Spanish and English, *La intención y su material* (Caracas, Monte Avilla Editores, 2012) (*Intention and Its Thing*, translated by Maria Baranda), especially

for the 9th annual Festival Mundial de Poesía, Casa Nacional de las Letras Andrés Bello, Caracas, Venezuela, June 17-24, 2012. He was the only poet invited from the U.S.A. Paul, along with **Truong Tran** was also part of an event, a Litcrawl and Matcha art mash-up, which took place at the Asian Art Museum on June 28th. **Peter Orner's** new collection of stories, *Last Car Over the Sagamore Bridge* will be published by Little, Brown in Fall, 2013. **Michelle Carter** had a Summer 2012 residency with Berkeley Rep, in their 20 Writers: The Food Project, having co-written the text for Erika Chong Shuch's performance piece *After All*. Michelle also won a Pen Center USA drama award for her play *How To Pray*. **Camille Dungy** was guest poet of the State Departments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe in July. **Daniel Langton's** latest book, *On Our Walks*, is in its 10th printing. **Bob Glück:** the 30th anniversary reprint of his first prose book, *Elements of a Coffee Service* (first published by Donald Allen's Four Season's Foundation) is forthcoming from Ithuriel's Spear. Later this year Bob will be interviewed by Miranda Mellis for McSweeney's journal *The Believer*. Also, his chapbook, *My Last Day: An Essay* was paired with the art of Arnold Kempe as part of a show at Second Floor Projects in San Francisco. And an essay on artist Jess, first published in *ARTFORUM* will be posted to the SFMOMA's blog Open Space.

Former Faculty

Alice La Plante, won second place in the Barnes and Noble Discover Award for her bestselling novel *Turn of Mind*.

Alumni

Shruti Swamy (MFA) is this year's recipient of the \$54,000 W.K. Rose Fellowship from her B.A. alma mater, Vassar. It enables her to work on her fiction for a year. **Daniel Orozco** (MA) won a 2011 Whiting Writer's Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation with a prize of \$50,000. He is currently teaching in Moscow, Idaho. **Alejandro Murguia**, (MFA) has been chosen to be San Francisco's Poet Laureate. **Gerardo Pacheco** (MFA) won the 2012 San Francisco Foundation Joseph Henry Jackson Award for his poetry project, *The Child of the Grasses*; there will be a reading at City Lights November 26th. **Robert Ricardo Reese** (MFA) had poetry published in *Asia Literary Review Spring 2012*. **Susan St. Aubin's** (MA) new book is now out from Renaissance E Books called, *A Love Drive-By And Other Stories Of Ambition, Hunger, And Desire*. It's available now as a download, and hopefully soon as print-on-demand. **Ellery Akers** (MA) won the 2011 Poetry International Prize for *Mud Lake*, which will be published in Poetry International. **Sarah Bardeen** (MFA) has two poems forthcoming in *Arroyo Literary Journal* in Spring 2013. **Marianna Cherry's** (MFA) story "The Endurance" is forthcoming in *ZYZZYVA*. **Jonathan Hayes'** (MA 2004) poetic travelogue, *Nippon: Drinking Sake and Staring at Fireflies in the August of Cicadas*, will be published online by Silenced Press this year. **Annie Holmes** (MFA) has been awarded a Hedgebrook Writing Residency for September-October 2012. **Anita Amirrezvani's** (MFA) second novel, *Equal of the Sun* was published this June by Simon

and Schuster. Anita's first book, *The Blood of Flowers* (Little, Brown and Company 2007) was reprinted in fourteen languages. **Grant Faulkner** (MA) had an article in the March/April *Poets and Writers*. Grant is now the executive director of the Office of Letters and Light, the nonprofit that runs National Novel Writing Month, Script Frenzy, and the Young Writers Program. He has new work in *The Southwest Review, Volume 96, No. 3*. and started the lit journal *100 Word Story* find out more at www.100wordstory.org. **River Jackson's** (BA; MA: Drama) novel in verse, *The Islands Of The Moon* is available as a free download at www.theislandsofthemoon.com (also watch him on youtube.com). **Roxane Beth Johnson's** (MFA) 2nd book of prose poems, *Black Crow Dress*, is forthcoming from Alice James Books in December. She has new poems in *Blackbird, Prairie Schooner* and *The Georgia Review*. **Hilary Kaplan** (MFA) received a PEN Translation Fund Grant for her translation of *Rilke Shake*, a book of poems by Brazilian poet Angélica Freitas. Starting in December, she writes about Brazilian poetry as a Guest Commentator at *Jacket2*. And on the humorous side, you can find Hilary as the cover girl for issue 3 of the Rio-based literary magazine *Modo de Usar & Co*. **Athena Kashyap** (MFA) has a new book of poetry called *Crossing Black Waters*, out from Stephen F. Austin University Press. **Marilyn Harris Kriegel** (MFA) and **Roberta D'Alois** (MFA candidate) have been chosen by the SF Olympians Festival to write *Athena! The Musical*, a modern take on the Athena/Arachne story that pits Marley Nathena, a software executive, against Rhea Weaver, a small town mayor, for the Vice presidential nomination. The festival is big fun, for more info go to sfolympians.com. One of **Elizabeth Madden-Zibman's** stories, "My Home's in Montana" was published in the premier print issue of *Shaking Lit: Best Prose, 2007-2010*, Carlow University, Pittsburgh, available on Amazon. **Lily Iona MacKenzie's** (MA) poetry collection, *ALL THIS* was published by Little Red Tree Publishing in November 2011. *Jimmy & Rita* by **Kim Addonizio** (MA) has just been reissued by Stephen F. Austin State University Press. **Richard Martin** (MA) has been commissioned by Soft Skull Press for a new anthology called *Tricks, Johns, Marks, & Chickenhawks*, a follow-up to *Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys*, stories told by the underrepresented population of sex workers. **Charlotte Muse** won the 2011 Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize from Passages North, and the 2011 Allen Ginsburg Poetry Award. Two of Charlotte's poems will be anthologized, one in *The Place That Inhabits Us* (Sixteen Rivers Press), and another in *A Bird Black as the Sun*, a book of California poets on crows and ravens (Green Poets Press). **kathryn l. pringle's** (MA & MFA) manuscript, *fault tree*, was selected by judge C.D. Wright for Omnidawn's 1st/2nd book prize. It will be released in Fall 2012. Other works have appeared recently in *Phoebe* and *Horse Less Review*. **Megan Pruitt** (MFA) won a 2011 Omnidawn Chapbook Prize in poetry. **Matt Rohrer's** (MA) chapbook, *Probability of Dependent Events*, is available for free download from Beard of Bees, beardofbees.com. **Canyon Sam's** (MFA) PEN-award winning book about Tibetan women, *Sky Train*, will be published

in South Asia next year by Westland Press. Also, she is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Mills, teaching Creative Nonfiction. **Fred Setterberg's** (MA) new novel, *Lunch Bucket Paradise* (Heyday), is short-listed for the Saroyan Prize given by the Stanford University Libraries. **Forrest Gander** (MA) was a finalist in the National Book Critics Circle Book Awards for his poetry collection *Core Samples from the World*, which was also a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. **Laura Walker** (MFA) has a new book of poetry coming out from Apogee Press summer 2012, *Follow-Haswed*. **Sandra Wassilie** (MFA) had two poems accepted for the May 2012 Quiet Lighting reading series; these were published in *sPARKLE & bLINK*. Sandra also served as poetry editor on *Fourteen Hills*, was a featured reader at the Velro Reading Series which published one of her poems in the first *Velro Reader*. **Theresa A. Yob** (MA) is teaching English to graduate students from Germany in Silicon Valley and San Francisco through the International Language School. **Bridget Hoida**, (MA) *So L.A.* (Lettered Press, 2012) is a first novel about a northern California transplant adjusting to the L.A. lifestyle. **Lauren Shufan's** (MFA) debut book of poems *Inter Arma* is the winner of the Motherwell Prize in Poetry. The book will be published by Fence Books in the spring of 2013. **Cary Pepper** (MA) won the 2012 Ashland New Plays Festival with his full-length play *How It Works*. His one-act play *Small Things* airs on National Public Radio in the summer or fall of 2012. **Lizzy Acker** (MFA) wrote a review of the Poetry Center's November 2011 fundraiser, with Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gary Snyder, for KQED website's arts and literature page. **Sara Mangold** won the Transcontinental Poetry Award from Pavement Saw Press, for *Electrical Theories of Femininity*. **Lucy Day's** (MA & MFA) memoir, *Married at Fourteen: A True Story*, will be published by Heyday Books in October. She will be reading at Diesel Bookstore in Oakland on Oct. 21, and at Laurel Books in Oakland on Oct. 26; heydaybooks.com for more info. **Traci Chee**, (MA) has short story collection *Consonant Sounds for Fish Songs* forthcoming late August, from Aqueous Books. **Alicia Ostarello** (MA) is currently working on a new project, called *50/50: A Dating Documentary*, for which she's set up a kickstarter.com fundraising campaign. Alicia will be hitting the road and going on 50 first dates, one in all 50 states. **Sandra Dutton** (MA) has an article, "The Poetry of Talk: Musings on Dialect" in the November/December 2011 issue of *The Horn Book Magazine*. **Rebecca Radner** (MA) has a new book out called *What you least Expect: Selected Poems 1980-2011*, published by Class Action Ink. **Kirby Wright** (MFA) was the 2011 artist in residence at Milkwood International in the Czech Republic. **Elise Ficarra** (MFA) collaborated with composer Evelyn Ficarra and artist Karrie Hovey on the installation "Endangered," that was part of mixed-media show *Broadside Attractions/Vanquished Terrains* at Intersection for the Arts in May. **Phyllis Stowell's** (MA) most recent books of poetry are *SUNDERED* (Fisher King Press, 2012), *Engraved Tablet* (FootHills Publishing, 2011). She will be reading at Book Passage September 9th. **Jon Boilard's** (MFA) debut novel *A River Closely Watched* is due out in late September,

from MacAdam/Cage (can pre-order on Amazon and Kindle).

Students

Andrea Alban's (MA Candidate) *Anyas War* was selected as one of the titles to be honored this year on the Amelia Bloomer List/The Amelia Bloomer Project, which is part of the American Library Association, Social Responsibilities Round Table's Feminist Task Force. **Sylvia Martinez Banks** (MFA Candidate) recently published a short story in the May 2012 *Cipactli* literary journal, published by SF State's Latina/Latino Studies department. **Keely Hyslop's** (MFA Candidate) poetry collection, *Things I Say to Pirates On Nights When I Miss You*, published by *Fourteen Hills*, as this year's winner of the Rubin First Book Award, was included in Small Press Distribution Recommends list. **Kathy Gilbert** (MFA Candidate) had three poems published in *Swamp*, an online Australian e-zine for graduate students, and three poems published in *The Steel Toe Review*, including "The Most Integrated Room in the House," which was included in their first anthology, *The Best of Our First Year Online*. **Graham Gremore** (MFA Candidate) was nominated by Quiet Lighting for the 2012 Pushcart Prize in Best of the Small Presses, for his piece "Happy Birthday (Sorry You Missed It)." **John Haggerty** (MFA Candidate) has had fiction recently published in the *Coachella Review*, the *Los Angeles Review*, *Hot Metal Bridge*, *Uncle John's Flush Fiction: An Anthology of Bathroom Reading*, and *Apt*. **Diana Rosinus** (MA Candidate) will be published in *Foundling Review* and *Poecology*. **Sommer Schafer-AuYeung's** (MFA Candidate) most recent short stories have been published or forthcoming in *Barge Journal*, *Eleven Eleven*, on-line journal *kill author* and *sPARKLE & bLINK April 2012*. **John Yewell** (MFA Candidate) was recently awarded a \$1,500 SFSU Alumni Association Graduate Scholarship for Fall, 2012. **Roberta D'Alois** (MFA Candidate) has been awarded the 2012-13 Silver Jubilee Scholarship from the San Francisco branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and has been hired to teach freshman composition here at SFSU in the English Department. **Yume Kim** (MFA candidate) received a 2011 Kundiman fellowship; she attended the Kundiman Asian American Poetry Retreat at Fordham University in June. **Carolyn Ho** (MFA candidate) won the 2012 San Francisco Foundation James Duval Phelan Award for her poetry manuscript *Wake*, and will also be reading at City Lights Bookstore November 26th.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and alumni. For more student (and alumni) publications, visit our website, creativewriting.sfsu.edu. Please email us if your publication isn't listed, and we'll be sure to include it in the newsletter, and the website.

MILESTONES

Stacy Doris, was a beloved faculty member from 2002 – 2012. Her works included her creative nonfiction, written in French, *Une Année à New York Avec Chester*, *La Vie de Chester Steven Wiener écrite par sa femme*, and a partial list of her poetry collections includes *Cheerleader's*

Guide to the World: Council Book, Knot, The Cake Part and Fledge. She has left a lasting impression on us all, with her kindness, elegance, and humor; we all are so much richer for having known her.

James Leigh, former faculty in Creative Writing, English, and Journalism Departments on and off from 1954 to 1980, passed away on June 16 at the age of 82. Chair of the Creative Writing Department from 1977 to 1980, his novels, included *What Can You Do?* (made into the 1970 film *Making It*), *Downstairs at Ramsey's*, *The Rasmussen Disasters*, and *No Man's Land*. His autobiography, *Heaven on the Side: A Jazz Life*, was published in 2000 by Xlibris.

ADVISING:

All Creative Writing professors, assistant, associate and full professors, are advisors; the list is posted at the department office, HUM 380. See any of them during their office hours for any questions about your degree program.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Prospective applicants to our **graduate programs, the application DUE DATE is DECEMBER 15th.**

Students, past and present, faculty past and present: your Creative Writing Department wants to hear from you! Please send us your news for the next Newsletter.

BIG THANK YOU'S to all of you who have been so generous in your giving; without your help, the department would have to do out without the many things that make our lives easier. **And as our department continues to receive no operating budget, we are dependent as ever upon your generosity, for not only scholarships for our deserving students, our membership fee for AWP, journal subscriptions, the occasional honorary stipend for guest speakers, judges, etc. but also for basic office supplies like paper, whiteout, and post-its (Thank you, C.K. for the supplies donated!)**

Your tax deductible contribution to The Creative Writing Department Fund, literary journals and scholarship accounts may be mailed; make the check payable to University Corporation, San Francisco State and be sure to indicate on the memo line and in a brief cover letter the account to which you wish to contribute (a list of our account names following). Please mail your donations to

San Francisco State University
Office of University Development
Administration Building 153
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

Our **other donation accounts** are: *14 Hills Literary Journal, *Ann Fields Poetry Award, *Bambi Holmes Award, *Clark-Gross Novel Award, *Tillie Olsen Award for Socially Conscious Writing, *Transfer Magazine, *Wilner Short Fiction Award, *Wordsmith Guild. Remember to write the appropriate account on the memo line of your check.

Additional donations maybe be made to one of our **endowment accounts**, which fund other scholarships and awards. The **mailing address is the same, but make**

your check payable to San Francisco State Foundation. On the subject line please indicate one of the following accounts: *James Milton Highsmith Endowment, *Miriam Ylvisaker Endowment, *Manoogian Endowment *William Dickey Endowment.

EVENTS: Add your voice to the Creative Writing Department by attending events and contributing to the department magazines and contests. Be sure to sign up for the email list and to watch our bulletin boards outside the department office (HUM 380) and by HUM 128 for news of local events, publications, and contests.

Also, check out the Poetry Center Schedule online: www.sfsu.edu/~poetry.

Students, to start receiving email notification about events, contests, advising, etc, send an e-mail to cw-students-request@sfsu.edu, no subject; in the body of the message, type the word subscribe. (And to get off the email list, do the same thing, except type "unsubscribe" in the message.) **Alumni**, do you who want to be on our Alumni e-mail list? Email us, cwritng@sfsu.edu, with your e-mail address, requesting to be added to the list.

All best wishes for a happy and productive Fall 2012.

Barbara Eaton, office coordinator
Creative Writing at SFSU