

Fall 2015

CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT

San Francisco State University

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Dear Students, Faculty, Alums, and Friends:

Welcome to fall semester 2015. I hope that summer provided you with ample time to write, travel, spend time with friends and loved ones, and work in meaningful ways. We in Creative Writing appreciate your connection to us and the wonderful news we frequently hear about your successes in writing, teaching, and collaborating in the community of writers.

The news here is that our 60 year-old Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives received renewal as a Research and Service Organization. Steve Dickison, its director, was re-appointed to a joint faculty-staff position, and the center received high praise in its review. It has a new relationship with the university and will be able to move its valuable holdings online more quickly for the poetry world to enjoy. Playwriting is also enjoying its GreenHouse class, which stages student plays and promotes the work of its playwrights. Fiction will have a presence in the Poetry Center series with John Keene this fall and the annual Gina Berriault event in spring. Writers on Writing, every Monday in 133 Hum, posts its visiting writing on the LCA website. Everyone is invited to hear a new author discuss his/her book weekly at 7pm.

In addition to this, there are new and visiting faculty: Professor of Communication Studies Javon Johnson, a slam and performance poet, is also teaching a course for us this semester; MFA alums Ben Black, Kelly Gilbert, Matthew Iribarne, and in spring Gerardo Pacheco. Carolina de Robertis will also join us. Poet Arisa White will be teaching and working part-time in the Poetry Center in spring. They join Michael David Lukas as 2015-16 faculty. Our tenure-track faculty member ZZ Packer has extended her stay at Radcliffe. She should rejoin us in fall of 2016.

I am asking alums, students, and faculty to consider contributing to our three worthwhile magazines. Because of new rules with Instructionally Related Activity funding and a second funding crisis in the College of Liberal & Creative Arts, there is far lower support for *Transfer* and *Fourteen Hills: The SFSU Review*, our 21 year-old and 57 year-old journals. Any funds that you might be able to offer would help them continue to publish two volumes a year each. We have a sponsor for the Michael Rubin Award (more on this later) but also need funding for *New American Writing*, publishing one issue a year and in its 31st year with that title. All six volumes could be published for \$13,000 a year, which, given their excellence, fine reputations and active notice in the literary world, is a small amount. Please consider contributing and also providing funds for the department to give students opportunities to hear guest readers and for CW to cover everyday costs of subscriptions, receptions, judges for contests, many small costs that the college doesn't fund.

You can make contributions right in our main page.

We are pleased this year to have a tenure-track search approved for a writer of fiction and Spanish literary translation. This person will serve our fiction staff and also help us start our 5th degree concentration for the MFA in literary translation next fall.

I hope you have a wonderful year in the department. We are here to advise you, teach you, support you, and help you participate in our community of writers. We are very proud of your accomplishments and hope to hear from you soon.

Best,
Maxine Chernoff, Chair of Creative Writing

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS NEWS * NEWS * NEWS

Magazines

Alexai Galaviz-Budziszewski as the recipient of the 2015 Gina Berriault Memorial Award received \$1000 and publication in the upcoming issue *Fourteen Hills: The SFSU Review 22.1*. We were happy to have him as a guest on campus in the Spring for a master class and a public reading in the Poetry Center. **Sylvia Telfer** won the 2015 Stacy Doris Memorial Poetry Award for her poem "The Bronze Glass of Isa Bell," for which she received \$500 and publication in *Fourteen Hills 21.2*. **Paul Hoover** is overseeing the reinvention/revival of *New American Writing*, as a print on demand literary journal - issue 33 was released June 2015.

Faculty

Anne Galjour was an artist at The Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep 2015 Summer Residency, to develop the third part of her Cajun Trilogy, working title *The Alligator Ball*. Anne is also happy to report that the documentary about GreenHouse, the annual Spring mini-festival of our graduate playwrights, is almost done. **Roy Conboy** is already hard at work with play rehearsal and development for the Fringe Goes Long festival. **Paul Hoover**, has a forthcoming chapbook of poems, *From Legend*, to be published by Little Red Leaves and poems forthcoming in *Poetry* and *Conjunctions 65: Sleights of Hand*, and is interviewed by Jane Joritz-Nakagawa in the forthcoming issue of online journal *Sibila*. **Peter Orner** was chosen for a residency at the Passa Porta International House of Literature in Brussels, Belgium and in August, taught at the Cambridge Writers Workshop in Granada, Spain, plus he has a recent story in *Tin House 63*, Spring 2015. **Chanan Tigay's** book of historical nonfiction *The Lost Book of Moses* will be published in March 2016 by Ecco/HarperCollins. **Andrew Joron's** latest book of poetry, *The Absolute Letter* will come out Fall 2016 from Flood Editions. **Toni Mirosevich** has an essay in *Pleiades 35.2*

Summer 2015. Toni's story "The Devil Wind" was a finalist in the 2014 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction. **Nona Caspers** has work in *Cimarron*, *Green Mountain*, *Epoch*; her short story collection *Alley Stories* was a finalist in the Leapfrog Press 2015 Fiction Contest. **Michelle Carter's** play *Better* was developed and presented through SuperLab, a collaboration between Playwrights Horizons and Clubbed Thumb in New York. She has also been commissioned to write a new play for Alter Theater. **Daniel Langton's** tenth poetry collection will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press, publication date tba. Semiotext(e) will publish *Communal Nude: Collected Essays* by **Robert Glück's** in 2016. In June 2015, **Maxine Chernoff** attended the 100,000 Poets for Change World Conference in Salerno, Italy and she has poems *Volt*, *Conjunctions*, *Plume*, and *Landowich*. **Dodie Belamy's** book of cross-genre essays *When the Sick Rule the World*, is forthcoming from Semiotext(e) (October, 2015) who also published her chapbook earlier in 2015, *The Beating of Our Hearts*, which was in conjunction with the 2014 Whitney Biennial. **Barbara Tomash** has poems published in a number of journals including *Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Witness* and a 20 page folio of work published by *VERSE*. **Donna de la Perrière** has work in *Volt*, an eight poem featurette in *Talisman* and curated both the Bay Area Poetry Marathon summer reading series and the San Francisco event for 100 Thousand Poets for Change. **Matthew Clark Davison** has fiction in *Educe Journal*, *Lumina Journal*, and *Per Contra*.

Former Faculty

Will Boast received a Rome Fellowship in Literature and will spend a year in residence at the American Academy in Rome. **Molly Giles' (MA 1981)** latest short story collection *All the Wrong Places*, winner of the 2013 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction, came out from Lost Horse Press and Willow Springs Editions in Spring 2015. **Katie Crouch's** novel *Abroad* (paperback edition, Picador, July 2015) has a good review in the September 20, 2015 *New York Times* Sunday Book Review Paperback Row.

Alumni

Pulitzer Prize winner **Rae Armantrout's (MA 1975)** latest book of poetry is *Itself* (Wesleyan, 2015). **Alejandro Murguía (MFA 1992)**, chair of the SFSU Latina/Latino Studies Department, and the 6th San Francisco poet laureate, has a new poetry collection - *Stray Poems: San Francisco Poet Laureate Series No. 6* (City Lights Books, 2014). **Kelly Loy Gilbert's (MFA 2010)** first novel, *Conviction* (Disney-Hyperion, 2015.) has received starred reviews in *Kirkus*. Kelly is also a visiting adjunct faculty this semester. **F. Douglas Brown's (MA)** latest collection of poetry *Zero to Three* (University of Georgia Press, October 2014) won the 2013 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. **Forrest Gander's (MA 1981)** latest novel is *The Trace* (New Directions, 2014). Find him in conversation, online, with John Benditt in the May 27, 2015 *Tin House* Open Bar section. **Benjamin P. Black (MFA)** was awarded a residency at Aggregate Space Art Gallery as part of the Featherboard Writing Series, part of Oakland Art Murmur, which culminated in a chapbook of

Artifacts. **Ben** is also a visiting adjunct faculty this fall. **Zaid Shlah (MFA 2010)** *ClockWork Poems and Essays*. Calgary, Canada: Frontenac House, 2015. Shlah, Z. (2015), 'The conscripted metaphor,' *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*, 9.2, 2015. **Marcus Gardley (BA 2001)** won the 2014 Will Glickman Playwright Award (\$4000) for *The House That Will Not Stand*, a dramatic comedy about free women of color in 1830's New Orleans, which premiered at the Berkeley Rep, was co-produced by Berkeley Repertory and Yale Repertory Theatres. **David Madden's (MA 1958)** book of essays *The Tangled Web of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Rowman & Littlefield. 2015. *The Last Bizarre Tale*. University of Tennessee Press. 2014. He is Robert Penn Warren Professor of Creative Writing, LSU, Emeritus. **Luke Dani Blue. MFA 2015**. "Bad Things That Happen to Girls," winner of the Nelligan Prize for Fiction, forthcoming in *Colorado Review*. 2015. **John Haggerty. MFA 2015**. Short stories forthcoming in *Monkeybicycle*, *Hobart Web*, *Matchbook*. Winner of a 2015 Literal Latté Fiction Award. **Cole Swensen (MA 1983)** translated from French *Lazy Suzie, Poetry and Photographs* by Suzanne Doppelt (Litmus, 2014) **Thomas Page McBee (MFA 2009.)** *Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man*. City Lights. 2014. Winner of the 2015 Lambda Literary Award for Best Transgender Nonfiction. **Ploi Pirapokin (MFA 2015)** was awarded the 2015-16 Alice Judson Hayes Fellowship at the Ragdale Foundation and will be attending the October 2015 Tomales Bay Writing by Writer's Workshop as a funded fellow. Ploi is also a visiting adjunct faculty this fall. **Luke Tennis (MA 1979)** won the Tucson Festival of Books Fiction Award for his short story "Go Long." He received \$1,000 and participated in a panel discussion and a workshop at the sixth annual Tucson Festival of Books. **Hilary Kaplan (MFA 2010)** *Angélica Freitas. Rilke Shake*. Translator Hillary Kaplan. Los Angeles: Phoneme, 2015. 2011 PEN Translation Fund award. Selection from *Rilke Shake, Circumference Magazine*, January 2015. **Joyce Luck (MA 2001)** *Master Yeshua: The Undiscovered Gospel of Joseph* - a novel out from Roundfire May 2015 has received favorable reviews. **Sonia Greenfield (MA 2001)** received \$1000 and publication of her book *Boy with a Halo at the Farmer's Market* as the 2014 Codhill Poetry Award winner. **Daniel Coshnear's (MFA 1998)** novella *Homesickness Redux* won the 2015 Fiction Fix Novella Award for 2015. **Juli-ana Delgado Lopera (MFA 2015)** is the new artistic director of Radar Productions, a San Francisco based literary arts non-profit. **Jill Tomasetti's (MA 2013)** first book of poems *Prima Vera* (2015), was published by Drop Leaf Press, which was co-founded by a group of our alumnae and students, including **Amy Bell (MFA 2014)** and **Jennifer S. Cheng (MFA 2015)**, who has been very busy, with poetry, lyric essays and essays forthcoming in *DIAGRAM*, *The Normal School*, *Cherry Tree*, and already published in *The Volta* (September 2015), *The Normal School Online* (June 18, 2015), *Tarpaulin Sky Magazine* (June 2015) *Ninth Letter* (Fall/Winter 2014-2015), *Tu-pe-lo Quarterly* (October 2014), *Tin House* (Fall 2014), *Poor Claudia: 10 Sources* (June 2015), *AGNI 81* (2015),

The Literary Hub (April 17, 2015), *Drunken Boat 21* (2015), *The Rumpus* (October 4, 2014). More about Drop Leaf Press – the first edition of their magazine, *Oxalis Volume 1: Hinge* (2015) features work by a number of our alumni and students, among them **Brandon Brown**, **Susan Calvillo**, **Christopher Chen** and **Nicholas James Whittington**. **Sylvia Martinez Banks (MFA 2015)** Non-fiction “What Really Happened” *East Bay Review* (online) Winter 2015. “Walking in the Mission” *Cipactli*. Spring 2015. **Toni Graham’s (MFA 1995)**, latest short story collection, *The Suicide Club* (University of Georgia Press, September 2015), has won her the 2015 Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction. We’re so proud that two of our alums won 2015 San Francisco Foundation awards: **Alyss Dixson (MFA 2015)** received a Joseph Henry Jackson Award for her manuscript *The Club* and **Shideh Etaat (MFA 2012)** received a James D. Phelan Award for her manuscript *Ali the Fortunate (and All His Broken Things)*. **Annie Dawid. MA 1986**. “Jonestown: Thirty Years On.” *Best New Writing 2015*. Hopewell Publications. 2014. **Margot Pepper. MFA 2001**. *American Day Dream*. Freedom Voices Press. 2015. **Peter Sinn Nachtrieb (MFA 2005)** and **Christopher Chen (MFA 2008)** both had summer residencies at The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep’s Center for the Creation and Development of New Work, **Peter’s A House Tour of the Infamous Porter Family Mansion**, is being developed in collaboration with performer Danny Scheie and **Christopher’s Passage**, a retelling of E.M. Forster’s *A Passage to India*, is being developed in collaboration with director Mei Ann Teo. **Meg Withers (MFA 2008)** and **Joell Hollowell (MFA 2009)** co-edited *Shadowed, Unheard Voices*, (The Press at CSU, Fresno. 2014.) a compilation of poetry by and about women. Many alumnae and some faculty contributed poems. **Michael Banister (BA 1972)** has had two novels published: *My Brother’s Keeper* (2013) and *Stolen Identity* (2015) the second of which has a featured review in the September 2015 issue of *Kirkus Reviews*. **Barbara Rose Brooker’s (MA 1991)** latest novel *The Rise and Fall of a Jewish American Princess* came out Fall 2014. **Michael Bourne (MFA 1997)** as a contributing editor to *Poets & Writers* has an article in the September/October 2015 issue. **Jan Ellison’s (MFA 2007)** novel *A Small Indiscretion* (Random House, 2015) has received many good reviews. Jan also has an article with tips for writers on writersdigest.com. **Bart Rawlinson (MFA 2002)**, associate professor of English at Mendocino College, received tenure in 2014, is a 2015 artist-in-residence at Arteles, Hämeenkyrö, Finland, has short-short fiction in *The Rumpus* April 7, 2015, and has poems in *Assaracus* Issue 18. **Jan-Henry Gray (BA 2014)** also has poetry in *Assaracus* Issue 18. **Marisa Crawford (MFA 2008)** won the Gazing Grain Press 2015 feminist poetry/prose hybrid chapbook contest for *Big Brown Bag*, which Gazing Grain Press will publish September 2015. **Marisa** also work in *The &Now Awards 3: Best Innovative Writing* (Lake Forest College Press, 2015). **Mukta Sambrani (MFA 2003)** has a book of poetry out, *Broomrider’s book of the dead* (Paperwall, 2015). **Marian Palaia’s (MA 1990)** novel *The Given World* came out from Simon & Schuster April 2015 and was visiting faculty in Spring 2015. **Liz**

McKague’s (MFA 2006) latest novel is *The Paper Boat: A Novel on the Life and Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (Booklocker, 2015).

Students

Dolly Reynolds (MFA candidate) has a nonfiction piece in *Gemini Magazine* (August 2015). **Rebecca Rosen Lum (MFA candidate)** received an SFSU Graduate Equity Fellowship. **Nancy Au (MFA candidate)** has a flash fiction piece coming out *Fiction Southeast*. **Phillip Barron (MFA candidate)** has poems in *Brooklyn Rail*, July/August 2015, and *Janus Head 14.1*. 2015. And Phillip has won several scholarships - Marshall J. Miller Award, the Edward B. Kaufmann Award, and the Carolyn Irene Howard Memorial Award. **Dylan Brie Ducey (MFA candidate)** "Twelve Is Hell" *Gravel Magazine*. University of Arkansas. May, 2015. "39th Street, Oakland" *Monkeybicycle*. Summer 2015. Carlisle Family Scholarship. 2015 Squaw Valley Writers Workshop. Squaw Valley, CA. July, 2015. **Patricia Reynoso (MFA candidate)**. *OUR HOME, NIGHT BUS*. 1 Minute Play Festival Moments from the Bubble, or: How the Google Bus Stops Here. Z-Space. San Francisco, CA. June 2015. *Pankhadi and the Prince*, a one act play. Those Women Productions presents In Plain Sight Festival. Metal Shop Theater. Berkeley, CA. September 2015. **Natasha Dennerstein’s (MFA candidate)** latest chapbook of poetry, *Anatomize* will be out October 2015, from Norfolk Press. **Sarah Heady (MFA candidate)** is among the founding editors of Drop Leaf Press, and she has work out in *About Place Journal Vol. III.II* (Black Earth Institute, November 2014). **Maia Ipp (MFA candidate)** has work in *Oxalis Volume 1: Hinge* (Drop Leaf Press, 2015) and nonfiction online in *Tablet Magazine*. **Justin Robinson (MFA candidate)** is published in *OmniVerse 60*.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and alumni. For more student (and alumni) publications, visit 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

We fondly remember our alumni who have left us this last year.

Scott Patrick Wagner, MFA Playwriting.
Paul Humann, MA Poetry.

ADVISING:

All Creative Writing professors, assistant, associate and full professors, are advisors; the list is posted online at our website and at the department office, HUM 380.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Prospective applicants to our **graduate programs, you will receive admission decisions mid to late March.**

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.

Events: Add your voice to the Creative Writing Department by attending events and contributing to the depart-

ment magazines and contests. Be sure to follow us on facebook and tumblr, 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, Alumni, Faculty and Friends, like us on facebook, follow us on tumblr and for you current students – our twitter page has notices about SFSU items of interest for current students! Go to our website and click on the “f,” “t,” or bird icons. All accounts are public, so you don’t have to have an account with any of the three social media sites to follow us!

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. **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, post-its®, file-folders and pens.**

Your tax deductible contribution to The Creative Writing Department Fund, literary journals and scholarship accounts (a full list of our account names below) may be made either online

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~develop/makeagift.htm> or by check to

Creative Writing Department
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

If mailing a check, please make it 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.

Our **other donation accounts** are: *14 Hills Literary Journal, *Ann Fields Poetry Award, *Bambi Holmes Award, *Clark-Gross Novel Award, *Creative Writing Scholarship Fund *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.

All best wishes for a happy and productive Fall 2015 and Spring 2016!

Barbara Eaton, academic office coordinator
Creative Writing at SFSU

SFSU Calendar Highlights

Fall 2015

First day of classes: Monday, August 24, 2015
Labor Day Holiday: Monday September 7, 2015*
Drop classes deadline: Friday, September 4, 2015
Add classes deadline: Monday, September 21, 2015
Veteran’s Day Holiday: Wednesday, November 11, 2015*
Fall Break: Monday-Saturday, November 23-28, 2015+
Last day of classes: Friday, December 11, 2015
Finals: Sat., Dec. 12; Mon. – Fri. Dec. 14-18, 2015
Year-end/New Year campus closure: Thurs., Dec. 24-31, 2015 – Sun., Jan. 3, 2016.*

Intersession 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: Mon., January 18, 2016*

Spring 2016

Faculty meetings, etc.): Monday, January 25, 2016
First day of classes: Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Drop classes deadline: Tuesday, February 8, 2016
Add classes deadline: Friday, February 12, 2016
Spring Break: Monday-Saturday, March 21-26, 2016±
Cesar Chavez Holiday: Thursday, March 31, 2016*
Last day of classes: Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Finals: Wed-Fri, May 18-20, 2016; &
Finals: Mon-Wed, May 23-25, 2016
Commencement: Friday, May 27, 2016
Memorial Day Holiday: Monday, May 30, 2016*

* Campus Closure

+ No classes all week, but campus offices are open Mon., Tues., Wed.

± No classes all week, but campus offices are open Mon. - Fri.