CREATIVE WRITING AT UC, Spring 2012

Welcome to the first alumni newsletter of the creative writing program at the University of Cincinnati. Through these newsletters, we hope to connect our graduate students and keep them apprised of department activities. We also aim to inform prospective students of our accomplishments. Faculty and alumni entries are presented in their own words.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chris Bachelder and Danielle Cadena Deulen joined the creative writing faculty this fall.

Chris Bachelder is the author of the novels *Abbott Awaits, U.S.!, Bear v. Shark*, and *Lessons in Virtual Tour Photography* (an e-book available free at [www.mcsweeney.net/bachelder/](http://www.mcsweeney.net/bachelder/)). His short fiction and essays have appeared in a number of magazines and journals, including *Harper’s, McSweeney’s, The Believer, The Oxford American, American Short Fiction, Mother Jones, The Cincinnati Review*, and *New Stories from the South*. Bachelder received an MFA from the University of Florida, and has held teaching positions at New Mexico State, Colorado College, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Danielle Cadena Deulen is a poet and essayist. Her first collection of poems, *Lovely Asunder*, won the Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize. Her first collection of essays, *The Riots*, won the AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction and the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award for Creative Nonfiction. Her poetry and essays have appeared most recently in *The Missouri Review, The Iowa Review, Smartish Pace*, and *The Indiana Review*. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from George Mason University and her PhD in English and Creative Writing from the University of Utah.

It’s been an impressive year for the *The Cincinnati Review*. In May, the journal was ranked the 20th best American literary magazine by *Every Writer’s Resource*. Work published in *Cincinnati Review* was reprinted in *Best American Poetry 2011, Best American Mystery Stories 2011*, and *Pushcart Prize XXXVI*, and will appear in *Best American Poetry 2012* (5 poems!) and *New Stories from the Midwest* (2012).

We’re excited to announce recent and forthcoming book publications by our current students:

**Lisa Ampleman:** I’ve Been Collecting This to Tell You (Kent State University Press, 2012), winner of the Wick Chapbook competition

**Brian Brodeur:** Natural Causes (Autumn House Press, 2012), winner of the Autumn House Press Poetry Prize

**Marjorie Celona,** Y (Simon & Schuster, Faber, Hamish Hamilton, Fall 2012)

**Rebecca Morgan Frank,** Little Murders Everywhere (Salmon Poetry, 2012)

**Luke Geddes,** I Am a Magical Teenage Princess (Chomu Press, Summer 2012)

**Andrew Grace,** Sancta (Ahsahta Press, 2012)

**Matt McBride,** Cities Lit by the Light Caught in Photographs (H_NGM_N Books, 2012)

**Don Peteroy,** Make Me More Like Marvin (Burrow Press, Fall 2012)

**Ruth Williams,** Conveyance (Dancing Girl Press, 2012)

Consider joining us for our upcoming readings: **Linda Hogan** (April 2), current students Lisa Ampleman, Brian Brodeur, and Andrew Grace (April 6), alumna Kelcey Parker (April 13), Colson Whitehead (April 19), Carolyne Wright (April 23), current student Rebecca Morgan Frank and alumna Caki Wilkinson (May 4), and Terrance Hayes (May 15). For more information about these events visit: http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/english/events/.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Chris Bachelder:** I’m very pleased to join the faculty of this terrific writing program. I moved to Cincinnati last summer with my wife, Jennifer Habel, and our two daughters. We have been exploring the city, spelunking in ice caves at the Museum Center, and trying to develop relationships with Betsy and Wooten, the manatees at the zoo. My most recent novel, Abbott Awaits, was published by LSU in 2011.
**Don Bogen:** The highlight of 2011 for me was spending a semester as Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry of Queen's University, Belfast. During my time there I gave readings and talks, including the annual Alan Graham Memorial Lecture of the Irish Association of American Studies, and enjoyed hanging out among the Irish poets. I also read at the Anthony Burgess Centre in Manchester, U.K. and published three poems in *The Manchester Review*. In September I gave eight poetry readings in the South and New England, and the next month I delivered a paper on translating poetic forms at an international conference on translation at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania. My translations from the poetry of Julio Martínez Mesanza appeared in *Two Lines* and *Parthenon West Review*, and my own poems came out in *Tikkun*, *Smartish Pace* and *Consequences*.

**Myriam J. A. Chancy** received the inaugural Guyana Prize in Literature Caribbean Award for Best Fiction 2010 for her novel *The Loneliness of Angels*. Dr. Barrhat Jagdeo, the president of Guyana, bestowed the prize at a ceremony in Georgetown, Guyana, Sept. 1, 2011. Her poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction have recently appeared in *Tectonic Shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake*, *Meridians*, *Obsidian*, *Vandal Literary Journal*, and *Il Tolomeo*. She will be Writer-in-Residence at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus this spring, and served as a 2011 advisor to the Prince Claus Fund, Netherlands, Creative Arts Fellowships.


**Danielle Cadena Deulen:** This fall, Danielle Cadena Deulen joined the University of Cincinnati faculty in poetry. Her collection of poems, *Lovely Asunder*, won the Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize and was published with the University of Arkansas Press in 2011. Her memoir, *The Riots*, published with University of Georgia Press in 2011 and winner of the 2010 AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction, recently won the 2012 GLCA New Writers Award in Creative Nonfiction. This winter, her poem “Lotus-Eater’s Wife” will be published in a new anthology from the University of Akron Press: *A Face to Meet the Faces: An Anthology of Contemporary Persona Poetry*, edited by Stacey Lynn Brown and Oliver de la Paz.


**Michael Griffith**’s new novel, *Trophy* (Northwestern U./TriQuarterly), was named one of *Kirkus Reviews*’ Top 25 Books of Fiction for 2011.
Jim Schiff has new essays on Updike, McEwan, Cheever, and Cunningham in volumes from Cambridge UP, Oxford UP, Salem P, and Critique. Editor of the newly-established John Updike Review, he also serves as a contributing editor to the latest edition of The Heath Anthology of American Literature.


ALUMNI NEWS

Greg Allendorf: I'm currently pursuing an MFA in poetry at Purdue University.

Murray Bodo: In 2012 Fr. Murray Bodo’s new book of poems, Something Like Jasmine, will be released by Tau Publishing. His first book, Francis: The Journey and the Dream, is also being commemorated this year in a new 40th Anniversary Edition. He was recently honored by St. Bonaventure University with the University Award as Poet Laureate of the Franciscan Order. www.murraybodo.com

Susan Streeter Carpenter: Since I defended my dissertation (July 26, 2005), I’ve been a member of the faculty at Bluffton University, in Bluffton Ohio, specializing in fiction writing. Last spring I was promoted from assistant to associate professor and granted tenure. I continue to write creatively and otherwise. Recent publications include several stories: “Journey Inland” in The Long Story, March 2005; “The Invisible Hospital” in Ellipsis ..., January 2006; and “Elk Medicine” in Crab Orchard Review, Spring 2008. “Elk Medicine” was subsequently included in Best of the West 2009: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri, edited by James Thomas and Seth Horton. In April 2010 my novel, Riders on the Storm, was published by Bottom Dog Press. Now I am officially at work on the next novel.

Adrienne Cassel (PhD, Poetry, 2011) has a chapter titled “Walking in the Weathered World” in Greg Garrard’s edited collection Teaching Ecocriticism and Green Cultural Studies (Palgrave, 2012). She just signed a contract to become a Lifelong Land Steward on the beautiful Kamama Prairie in Adams County, Ohio, where she will be building a 550 square foot “green” getaway.

Lauren Clark: I moved to Washington, D.C. immediately after graduating from UC and am now working as the foreign rights director at the Sagalyn Literary Agency. Working at an agency has exposed me to infinitely interesting people, ideas, and books, and taking part in the publishing process itself is equally eye-opening; I learn something new every day. In my free time, I like to read, run, play tennis, and travel.
Mary Jo Tewes Cramb: I graduated with an MA with a fiction concentration in 2008. Right after graduation I moved to Nashville and adjuncted at Belmont University for a year. Then I joined the Nashville Teaching Fellows program, a part of The New Teacher Project, and began teaching English and Spanish in public high schools. I got married on July 24, 2010 to David Cramb, and Elizabeth Harmon, a current PhD student in poetry, served as a bridesmaid. David and I own a house in the Inglewood neighborhood. I teach at The Academy at Old Cockrill, a nontraditional high school that accepts students ages 17-21 who are making up credits to graduate. I recently started a book blog at www.mereader.wordpress.com. I can be reached on facebook, LinkedIn, or at my email, maryjotewes@gmail.com.

Cynthia A. Crane: I am an Associate Professor, English at U.C., Blue Ash College. My book Divided Lives was published by St. Martin’s Press and Macmillan. I have been working on, and have completed a proposal for, another nonfiction book.

John Cussen (PhD, 1993) has reached his level at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where he is an associate professor in the Department of English and Theatre Arts, and where, in more or less equal measures, he teaches gen ed literature and freshman composition courses. Shortly after finishing at UC, he left off writing fiction to take up writing scholarship, and, thus, over the years he has published about a dozen peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on Irishmen Joyce, Yeats, and Beckett; on travel writers Naipaul, Theroux and Kaplan; on Colombian García Márquez and on the Bengali-American fiction writer Lahiri. He did a Fulbright to India in the first four months of 2011.

Alex DeBonis: Currently, I teach fiction writing, American literature, world literature, and composition at Bethel University, a small liberal-arts college in West Tennessee. My fiction has appeared in kill author, WordRiot, eclectic flash, and Storyglossia.

Stephen Frech’s chapbook The Dark Villages of Childhood (which previously won the national Mississippi Valley Poetry Chapbook contest) won the Jean Pedrick Chapbook Award sponsored by the New England Poetry Club. He published a chapbook in 2011 with Cervena Barva Press: A Palace of Strangers Is No City, a sustained narrative of prose poetry/flash fiction. And he has published a full-length translation from the Dutch: Zwart als kaviaar/Black as Caviar (Midwest Writing Center, 2012) by Menno Wigman.

Molly Gaudry: In 2011, Molly Gaudry was nominated for the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry, and her verse novel, We Take Me Apart, was a finalist for the Asian American Literary Award for Poetry. She completed a collection for a 3-author YesYes Books project that includes Bob Hicok and Phillip B. Williams. Molly also founded The Lit Pub (thelitpub.com), about which a reporter at bigthink.com said: “I am intrigued by The Lit Pub as a business venture, a social experiment, and just possibly as the start of a reverse trend within the bookselling industry." In response, The New Yorker blogged:
"Can an online bookstore cultivate the same sense of community that local shops do? The Lit Pub is trying."

**Peter Grimes:** Lyz and I live in Dickinson, ND, where I am an assistant professor at Dickinson State University. I teach all creative writing courses, philosophy, and composition. I'm also in charge of the visiting writers' program. One thing you may not know about western ND: zero degrees here is equivalent in feel (phenomenologically equivalent?) to about twenty degrees in Cincinnati. I can't prove it, but I'm pretty sure.

**Kevin Haynes:** I am working as a Statistician for a non-profit organization called the New Teacher Project. My wife, Becky, and I still live in Cincinnati with our dog and cat, and in my free time I serve as the co-founder, resident stats dork, and head blog writer for the [Cincinnati Wiffle Ball Club](http://www.cincinnatiwiffleballclub.com).

**Kevin Heath:** Update: I'm a professor of English and the chair of the English, Literature, and Modern Languages Department at Cedarville University in Cedarville, OH. The teaching I do is in the department's creative writing minor. I handle our creative nonfiction courses. Noteworthy: (a) I and a colleague co-wrote a genre-x book called *Hawkgirl: A to Z*, an excerpt of which ("29 Pieces from the Lost Book of Hawkgirl") recently won the Tusculum Review Fiction Prize, judged by Michael Martone; (b) my band, The Shoe Horns, purveyors of original blues/rock, regularly appears at Canal St. Tavern in Dayton and is always available for gigs.

**Lesley Jenike:** My first collection, *Ghost of Fashion*, was published by CW Books in 2009. I've since published poems in *Poetry*, *The Southern Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Rattle*, and *Smartish Pace*, among other journals. I've recently been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and have been awarded fellowships and scholarships from The Sewanee Writers’ Conference, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Ohio Arts Council. I'm an assistant professor of English the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio.

**Holly Karapetkova:** My first book, *Words We Might One Day Say*, won the 2010 Washington Writers’ Publishing House Poetry Award. I am an Assistant Professor of English at Marymount University in Arlington, VA.

**April Lindner:** My novel *Jane*, which was published by Little, Brown's Poppy imprint in 2010, is on the verge of publication in the Czech and Slovak republics, by Euromedia Group K. S. and Ikar A. S., respectively. *Jane* also is forthcoming in Korea, from SAE NU Press. My poetry collection, *This Bed Our Bodies Shaped*, is due out in 2012 from Able Muse Press.
Kristi Maxwell: In September 2011, my third full-length poetry book, *Re-*, was published by Ahsahta Press. In October, over the course of a week, a lovely coincidence, I learned that both the creative and critical components of my dissertation were accepted for publication. My creative manuscript, *PLAN/K*, will be the inaugural title in Mud Luscious Press's Transduction Series, and my article, "From No Body to Some Bodies: Forms of Mourning and Melancholia in Jenny Boully's *The Body and [one love affair]*," is forthcoming in *Textual Practice*.

Kelcey Parker: My first book, *For Sale By Owner* (Kore Press), won the 2011 Next Generation Indie Book Award in Short Fiction, and my next book, *Liliane's Balcony*, will be published by Rose Metal Press in 2013. I'm an assistant professor of creative writing at Indiana University South Bend and looking forward to my first sabbatical later this year.

Jamie Poissant: After graduating in 2012, I accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Central Florida where I teach fiction writing in the university’s undergraduate and MFA creative writing programs. This year, my stories have appeared in *One Story*, *The Notre Dame Review*, *The Southern Review*, and *New Stories from the Midwest*. I have new stories forthcoming from *The Fairy Tale Review* and *Copper Nickel*. Recently, I was also named the winner of the RopeWalk Fiction Chapbook Prize. My story, *Lizard Man*, was published in chapbook form by RopeWalk Press.

Scott Rettberg: I'm an associate professor of Digital Culture in the department of literary, linguistic, and aesthetic studies at the University of Bergen, in Bergen, Norway. I'm currently leading the European research project Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Innovation in Practice (http://elmcip.net) and am vice-president of the Electronic Literature Organization (http://eliterature.org). The majority of my creative work in recent years has been network-based, including hypertext fiction, an email novel, a sticker novel, generative poetry and fiction, and film.

Adam Sol: The last time I was in Cincinnati was in 2008 to read from my 3rd book, *Jeremiah, Ohio*, which was later shortlisted for Ontario's Trillium Award for Poetry. Since then, I've been busy teaching at Laurentian University's campus in Barrie, Ontario—I was granted tenure last spring, so it looks like I'll be sticking around. New poems have appeared in *Malahat Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Fiddlehead*, etc. I also published a short story in the online journal *Joyland*, and had a chapter in a book on contemporary Jewish literature published by Purdue UP. Best news of all: next year I get a sabbatical! Am worried that my administrative duties are turning me into a seasonal writer, and continue to admire Chuck Rybak's facebook updates.
Shawn Sturgeon: I work for the Rochester Institute of Technology where I am currently Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the American College of Management and Technology in Croatia. I spent the previous three years at an RIT affiliate, the American University of Kosovo, where I was the Director of Academic Affairs and professor of literature. My first book, *Either/Ur*, was published in 2002 and was a finalist for the Independent Publisher Book Awards, the Paris Review Prize, and a semi-finalist for the Walt Whitman Award. I’ve continued publishing poems and short stories, and one day (perhaps soon, perhaps never) I will circulate a new manuscript. I live in Zagreb with my wife Samira.

Kevin Walzer (PhD, 1996) edits WordTech Communications LLC ([http://www.wordtechcommunications.com](http://www.wordtechcommunications.com)) with his wife, Lori Jareo. WordTech is one of the largest poetry publishers in the U.S., bringing out approximately 40 new collections per year.

Suzanne Warren: I graduated in August 2012 and accepted a three-year visiting assistant professor of English position at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. *Versal* literary journal nominated my story "The Reindeer Daughter" for a 2012 Pushcart and my story "Smart Girl" is forthcoming in *Flights*.

Jillian Weise: My poetry collection, "The Book of Goodbyes," won the Isabella Gardner Award. It will be published by BOA in 2013. I host radio interviews with poets on a program titled "Your Day" which is aired all across South Carolina. So if you are ever in the Clemson area, and wish to chat about your poems, drop me an email: jweise@clemson.edu.


Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. If you know of alumni who did not receive it, please contact Jenn Habel at jennhabel@gmail.com.