DIRECTOR’S NOTE

We’re very pleased that Kristen Iversen will be joining the faculty this fall, as we expand our program to include creative nonfiction. Kristen is the author of three books, including a nonfiction textbook. Her new book, on the friendship between Twain and Tesla, will be published next year. She’ll join Danielle Deulen, author of the award-winning memoir *The Riots*, in developing a CNF track in both the graduate program and the undergraduate major.

In other news, the Elliston Project ran a series of five workshops to help us transform our collection of recorded poetry readings and lectures into a digital archive of national significance. Major scholars with expertise in the digital humanities—Jerome McGann among them—led the workshops, which were attended by UC poets, scholars, and librarians, as well as colleagues from nearby universities. Now that the series is complete, the Elliston Project team is planning next steps. They will soon design a comprehensive web portal for the archive, and will also seek a national grant in the digital humanities in support of their efforts.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary, *The Cincinnati Review* hosted parties locally and at AWP in Seattle, where it was a pleasure to see so many of you. The magazine also won an NEA grant to support the publication of graphic plays and long-form prose and poetry.

Leah Stewart, Director
DEPARTMENT NEWS

THE CINCINNATI REVIEW CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

A large and festive crowd gathered earlier this month to celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Cincinnati Review. CR contributors Jeff Gundy and Kathleen Winter read poetry, and UC alumni Ben Dudley and MaryKate Moran read from Moth, which CR is currently converting into a graphic play. In the coming months, CR will produce a 6x9-inch perfect-bound book of 56 pages, which will be mailed to its subscribers. Moth, by Australian playwright Declan Greene, is set to make its American debut at the Studio Theater in Washington, DC this month. The Cincinnati Review also celebrated its anniversary at AWP, where it was one of three finalists for the 2014 AWP Small Press Publisher Award—just one of many honors the magazine has earned in its first ten years.

KRISTEN IVERSEN TO HEAD UC'S NEW CREATIVE NONFICTION PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce that Kristen Iversen will join UC’s creative writing faculty next year and will head the expansion of our program into creative nonfiction at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. John Drury, who was the head of the search committee for Iversen’s position, had this to say:

When I was on the search committee, reading books by applicants for a new position in creative nonfiction, I was struck immediately by Full Body Burden, Kristen Iversen’s memoir, which I found beautifully written, multi-layered, and deeply moving. The first chapter begins with a childhood memory of the family’s house smoldering after the “drapes caught on fire,” but it soon proceeds to a passage about a fire “two miles away, in an underground plutonium processing building at Rocky Flats.” She braids stories about personal experience, the often harrowing lives of neighbors, and the secret production of plutonium triggers at the nearby nuclear weapons facility. The subject matter is gripping in itself, but it’s the artistry, clarity, and verbal richness of her
writing that draws me into those interwoven stories.

Beyond the allurements of her memoir, Kristen impressed me by her versatility. She holds a doctorate in fiction writing from the University of Denver. She is the author of *Shadow Boxing*, a textbook on creative nonfiction. She has a forthcoming book about the friendship between Mark Twain and Nikola Tesla and is at work on a book of essays, *Slow Fire*, and a novel, *Hidden City*. At the University of Memphis, where she has taught for eleven years, she developed the program in creative nonfiction. She also did a good deal of imaginative fundraising for the department’s literary magazine, *The Pinch*. The course syllabi she sent us were imaginative, exciting, and demanding, with a lot of required reading. Her Forms of Creative Nonfiction course, for example, lists books by Edward Abbey, Alan Lightman, Diane Ackerman, Gretel Ehrlich, Primo Levi, Dava Sobel, Wendell Berry, and Susan Rabiner. One of her creative nonfiction workshops focused on the graphic memoir. When she came to Cincinnati for her campus visit, Kristen was friendly, quick-witted, knowledgeable, and engaging—all qualities we want in a colleague. When I asked what poet-memoirist she would like to bring here for a reading and a talk on memoir, she named Ted Kooser, whose creative nonfiction she has taught. I’m happy to say that on October 31, during her first semester at UC, our visiting writer will be Ted Kooser. I look forward to Kristen’s arrival with great excitement.

--John Drury

FALL 2014 VISITING WRITERS SERIES

If you are in the area, please consider attending our upcoming readings:

**Michael Knight and Roger Reeves**
September 8, 4:00 p.m., Elliston Poetry Room

**Claire Messud**
September 17, 7:00 p.m., Main Street Cinema, Tangeman University Center, room 220

**James McMichael**
September 19, 3:00 p.m. (q & a), 4:00 p.m. (poetry reading), Elliston Poetry Room

**Ted Kooser**
October 31, 2:00 p.m. (talk on memoir writing), 4:00 p.m. (poetry reading) Elliston Poetry Room

More events will be announced on our website in the coming months.

The 2013-14 series included Elliston Poet C. K. Williams, *The Cincinnati Review* Emerging Poets Festival, and readings by Sarah Arvio, Jami Attenberg, Joseph Campana, Denise Duhamel, Yona Harvey, Cathy Park Hong, Dana Levin, Colum McCann, Erin McGraw, and Jamie Quatro, among others.

Jamie Quatro talks with PhD student Kelly Blewett
We are pleased to announce that the 2014-15 Elliston Poet-in-Residence will be Mary Szybist, winner of the 2013 National Book Award in Poetry and a 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship. Szybist has also won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rona Jaffe Foundation, and Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

While in residence, 2013-2014 Elliston Poet C. K. Williams gave a lecture on his influences, a craft talk on early and late drafts of his poems, and a poetry reading.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Chris Bachelder**'s essays have recently appeared in *The Southern Review* and in an anthology on fatherhood. During the spring semester he gave readings and talks at Vanderbilt, the University of Toledo, and the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is working on a novel.

**Don Bogen**: As Poetry Editor of *The Cincinnatii Review*, I’ve been busy this year helping with our tenth-anniversary celebrations at the AWP conference in Seattle and here in Cincinnati. Last fall, I read from my translations of work by the Spanish poet Julio Martínez Mesanza at the annual conference of the American Literary Translators Association, and my poem “Soft Song” appeared in the fall issue of *The Louisville Review*. Two of my poems, “Have To” from *An Algebra* and “Elegies,” were set to music by the composers Steven Weimer and Carrie Magin respectively, and performed at CCM in the spring. In April I delivered a paper called “‘Loosening Gravity’: Seamus Heaney’s California of the Mind” and chaired a session at a conference celebrating the 75th anniversary of Heaney’s birth at Queen’s University, Belfast.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, **Danielle Cadena Deulen** had poems published in *The Journal, Diagram, Basalt, The Kenyon Review Online, North American Review, Arts & Letters, Crazyhorse, Hotel Amerika*, and she has two more forthcoming from *Nimrod* and *Fugue*. Her poem “Transit” was selected for the *Montreal Prize 2013 Global Poetry Anthology*, which was published by Véhicule Press in 2013 (more information about the contest and chosen authors as well as MP3s of the authors
reading their poems can be found [here](#). Her lyric essay “How the Soul Discharges its Emotions against False Objects” was chosen for *After Montaigne: Contemporary Essayists Cover the Essays*, edited by Patrick Madden and David Lazar, forthcoming from The University of Georgia Press. Recently, she was nominated for a 2014 Pushcart Prize Fellowship (keep your fingers crossed for her while the judges are judging!), and has won a 2014 Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council. She was joined by two of our graduate students, Julia Koets and Linwood Rumney, on a panel at AWP this year, and was invited to give readings at the John R. Milton Writers’ Conference in Vermilion, SD, the Borderlands East Reading in Richmond, IN, and the Salina Spring Poetry Festival in Salina, Kansas.


**Michael Griffith** is beginning work on a new novel about an obituary writer. He’ll be teaching again this summer at the Sewanee School of Letters.

**Leah Stewart**: My most recent novel, *The History of Us*, was published in paperback in August by Touchstone/Simon & Schuster. It was chosen for Target’s Recommended Reads; the Midwest Booksellers Association’s Midwest Connections; and the Choose to Read Ohio 2015-16 booklist. I’m working on a novel set in Sewanee, Tennessee, where I spent two weeks in January at a new writers' colony called Rivendell.

## ALUMNI NEWS


**Greg Allendorf**: I finished my MFA at Purdue University last spring, and am currently at the University of Missouri-Columbia working on my PhD. Recent poems have appeared in *Portland Review* and *Subtropics*, and are forthcoming in *The Lumberyard*.

**Rebecca Morgan Frank**’s poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *The New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Washington Square*, *Missouri Review* online, and several other anthologies and journals. She published an essay on poets and the movies in *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and her fiction, nonfiction, and reviews are forthcoming in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Cincinnati Anthology*, and *The Iowa Review*. She continues to edit the online magazine *Memorious.org* and teach at the Center for Writers, the graduate program at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Preston Frasch** taught English as a Second Language in Ufa, Russia, and is now teaching literature and English as a Second Language at local colleges.

**Andrew Grace** is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Kenyon College. His poems are

**Ryan Guth:** As it happens, I do have a book coming out later this year. The title is *Body and Soul,* and it's sort of a novel in verse -- actually, a mixed-genre collection, telling the story of a woman coming to grips with episodes of sexual abuse she endured as a child. The publisher is Lummox Press of San Pedro, CA.

**April Lindner:** My novel *Catherine,* a young adult retelling of *Wuthering Heights,* recently was published in the Czech Republic. A paperback English edition of the novel is due out in August. And my third novel, *Love, Lucy,* a YA retelling of *A Room with a View,* will be published in January 2015 by Poppy.

**Rebecca Meacham** won the 2013-14 *New Delta Review* chapbook contest with her flash fiction collection, *Morbid Curiosities.* Stories from this collection have appeared in *The Collagist, Hobart, Indiana Review, Wigleaf, Necessary Fiction, Paper Darts, Digital Americana,* and other journals. She is still directing the creative writing program at UW-Green Bay, writing a novel, and blogging for *Ploughshares.*

**Tessa Mellas:** I will be starting a tenure-track assistant professorship at the University of Maine at Machias in August. I will be teaching creative writing, literature, and developmental writing. Matt and I will also contribute to UMM's literary journal, presses, and book arts program. This spring, I presented on two panels at the AWP conference with several UC folks. Christian Moody and I co-organized the panel "Eco-fabulism: Fiction for a Hot Planet?". I presented on a panel called "Who Wears Short Shorts? We Do: Reinvigorating the Fiction Workshop," organized by Leah McCormack and Dietrik Vanderhill and with fellow alums Peter Grimes and Suzanne Warren. I presented at the CCCC conference on a panel called "Poetry and Fiction Off the Page: Multimodal Approaches in the Creative Writing Classroom," organized by Ruth Williams and with fellow alum Matt McBride.

**Jim Murphy** has published his third book of poems, *The Uniform House,* with Negative Capability Press in Mobile, Alabama (found [here](#)). He recently attained the rank of Professor at the University of Montevallo, a public liberal arts school near Birmingham, Alabama, where he has taught for fourteen years.

**Kelcey Parker's** second book, *Liliane's Balcony,* was published by Rose Metal Press in 2013. Excerpts of her forthcoming book, *The Bitter Life of Bozena Nemcova,* have appeared in *Sou'wester and The Common.* She directs the creative writing program at Indiana University South Bend. She blogs, now and again, [here](#).

**Jamie Poissant:** My collection of short stories, *The Heaven of Animals,* was published in March by Simon & Schuster and has received starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Library Journal.* New stories appear or are forthcoming in *Tweed's, Columbia, and Hawaii Review.*

**C. Lynn Shaffer:** My poetry chapbook *Life Spiral* was published in January by Finishing Line Press. I am an Associate Professor of English at Maysville Community & Technical College in Kentucky.
Virginia Slachman presently serves as Adjunct Professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Over the past year and a half, she's published three books—her third collection of poetry (*World of Mortal Light*), a novel (*The Lost Ode*), and her memoir (*Many Brave Hearts*). For more about her activities visit [http://www.virginiaslachman.com/](http://www.virginiaslachman.com/).

Adam Sol: My fourth book of poetry, *Complicity*, was just published by McClelland & Stewart (a division of Random House).

Jillian Weise: *The Book of Goodbyes* (BOA Editions) won the 2013 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. I published some poems in *Crazyhorse* and an imaginary interview in *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*.

Ruth Williams: My poetry has recently appeared in *Fourteen Hills* and *Faultline* and my creative nonfiction in *South Loop Review*. I also have work forthcoming from *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Currently, I'm an Assistant Professor of English at William Jewell College.

**STUDENT NEWS**

Jose Angel Araguz has recently been selected to be a 2014 CantoMundo fellow. His poem "Happiness" has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Apple Valley Review*. His e-chapbook *Naos: an introduction* will be published later this year by Right Hand Pointing. His work has appeared most recently in *Slipstream*, *White Stag Journal*, *The Inflectionist Review*, and *Hanging Loose*, and is forthcoming in *The Merrimack Review*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *The Cortland Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *Rattle*, *Salamander*, and *Poet Lore*. His poetry blog, *The Friday Influence*, is soon to be two years old.

Rochelle Hurt published her first poetry collection, *The Rusted City* (White Pine Press), this year. She was also selected to appear in *Best New Poets 2013* and won *Tupelo Quarterly*'s TQ3 poetry contest. New work appears or is forthcoming in *Mid-American Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *The Florida Review*, and *Harpur Palate*.


Don Peteroy will be working on the editorial staff at *The Cincinnati Review* next year and will start his fourth year as a PhD student. His stories appeared or are forthcoming in *Arcadia*, *Short Story America*, and *Florida Review*. For the next six months, he is a guest blogger at *Online Sundries*, and is midway through a four-part, nonfiction series about how he annoyed Kurt Vonnegut. This year, two of his stories received Pushcart nominations. His panel "Literary Players: Playboy Contest Winners Read their Work" was accepted for AWP 2014, and Don would have been a reader and the moderator, but
he could not attend due to the death of a friend. Still, he's glad that AWP finally accepted one of his proposals. After seven years, he has finished his novel My Helicopter Heart and is now 300 pages into his next novel, which is a mix of the mystery/suspense/horror/adventure genres.


Woody Skinner has short stories forthcoming in the spring issues of Another Chicago Magazine and Regarding Arts and Letters.

Rachel Steiger-Meister: In March I presented a paper entitled "Romantic Love Between Young Women in YA Secondary World Fantasy Novels" at the 35th International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, Florida.

Sarah Strickley: I have a story in the current issue of Witness and an essay in the anthology Labor Day: True Birth Stories by Today's Best Women Writers (FSG, 2014). You can hear me talk about the anthology in an upcoming episode of the Other People Podcast. I'll be teaching a series of workshops at the Iowa Summer Writers Festival, including a session on cognitive brain science and its implications for fiction writers. And I have essays forthcoming in The Updike Review and the anthology The Book of Uncommon Prayer.

Anne Valente recently presented a panel at AWP in Seattle on the publication of short story collections with independent presses alongside Alissa Nutting, Tim Horvath, Gabriel Blackwell and Molly Patterson. She has stories forthcoming in One Story, Iron Horse Literary Review, The Normal School and Quarterly West. Her first short story collection, By Light We Knew Our Names, releases this October from Dzanc Books.

Sara Watson's work has recently appeared in the online journals PANK and Toad and is forthcoming in the minnesota review and The Southern Review. Her poem "Now Her Dumb Yellow Dog Runs Away" was nominated by The Fourth River for a Pushcart Prize. Her first chapbook, Smoke Ring Halo, comes out this spring. She will be associate editor of The Cincinnati Review in the fall.

Kathy Zlabek: I'm currently finishing my work at UC. In the last year, I've had stories in The Literary Review, Bayou, Yemassee, The Rumpus, and Zymbol. This winter, my novel-in-stories was a finalist for the Theodore Dreiser Award in the National Novel.

INCOMING STUDENTS

We are delighted to welcome eight new PhD students and two new MA students next year. They include:

Andrew Bales will arrive from Kansas, where he received an MFA from Wichita State University. He serves on the editorial staffs of NANO Fiction and American Short Fiction and has been a recent Tennessee Williams Scholar at the Sewanee Writers' Conference. His latest stories are forthcoming in Tin House (online) and Gargoyle.
**James Ellenberger** got an MFA in poetry from The Ohio State University in 2012. His poems have most recently appeared in *Sou’Wester, Passages North,* and *Apalachee Review.* He currently lives in Chicora, Pennsylvania.

**Gwen E. Kirby** grew up in San Diego before receiving her BA from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She recently graduated with her MFA in fiction from the Johns Hopkins University. Her work has been a finalist for the *Zoetrope: All Story* and *Indiana Review* fiction prizes.

**Katie Knoll** was born and raised in the suburb-swamp hybrid of South Florida, and is a recent graduate of Florida State University. Her work has been featured in *Rattle,* *Slipstream,* and *Narrative Magazine.*

**Karissa Morton** is originally from Des Moines, Iowa, and holds an MFA from Bowling Green State University. Her work appears in *The Indiana Review,* *The Paris-American,* *Guernica,* *The Sonora Review,* and elsewhere. She edits *Revolution House,* runs the blog collective *Poets on Sports,* and writes for *American Microreviews and Interviews.*

**Ondrej Pazdirek,** born and raised in Prague, Czech Republic, is a graduate of Florida State University’s creative writing program. He is the recipient of the John McKay Shaw Academy of American Poets Award for 2013. He has a poem forthcoming in *Bayou Magazine.*

**Matthew Pennock’s** first collection, *Sudden Dog* (Alice James Books, 2012), won the 2011 Kinereth-Gensler Award. His poems are widely published, most recently in *Gulf Coast* and an anthology of television inspired poems called *Rabbit Ears* (Poets Wear Prada, 2014). He is also a regular contributor of criticism to *The Philadelphia Review of Books.* He received his MFA from Columbia University in 2007, and his BA from the University of Virginia in 2003.

**Brenda Peynado** has work appearing or forthcoming in *The Threepenny Review,* *Black Warrior Review,* *Pleiades,* *Cimarron Review,* and others. After receiving her MFA from Florida State University, she is currently in the Dominican Republic on a Fulbright grant for novel research.

**A'Dora Phillips** completed her MFA in fiction at UMass, Amherst. She has travelled widely and is passionate about teaching, painting, translating, and of course writing. She has spent this past year collaborating with her husband on a book which profiles some of the 20th and 21st century’s most eminent painters who suffer from vision impairments late in life. Her stories, essays, and translations have appeared in *The Kenyon Review,* *The South Dakota Review,* *New York Stories,* and elsewhere.