

# MFA IN WRITING

## VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

NEWSLETTER

February 2008

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Winter 2008 graduates of both MFA in Writing and MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults. We had two very fine residencies with lots of gorgeous snow on hand (though about now we're wishing it were melting!). Our profuse thanks to the MFA in Writing graduates for their very generous contribution to the Lynda Hull Scholarship Fund and to the MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults graduates for initiating the project to digitize all of the program's lectures and purchasing a USB device to store them.

There are still some openings for our **April writers/artists retreat in Saignon, Provence (April 18-25)**. This will be a wonderful week in the most gorgeous part of France and bring together the two disciplines in unique ways. If you can consider joining us, please be in touch with [louise.crowley@tui.edu](mailto:louise.crowley@tui.edu) right away!

We will be conducting our 7<sup>th</sup> annual summer trip to **Slovenia (June 26-July 5)** and if any alumni are interested in attending (ether as the beginning of a post-graduate semester or just as a trip) please be in touch with Louise as soon as possible. Also, if anyone is interested in giving a donation to a scholarship fund to help students attend this residency alternative there are some who would greatly appreciate the assistance in making it possible. We know that many of you who have attended in past years found this trip a "once in a lifetime" experience and we hope that as many students as possible will continue to be able to take advantage of this opportunity. Any such donations can be sent to the MFA office with checks made out

to MFA in Writing Scholarship Fund (with Slovenia in the note section).

**May 1** is the deadline for the **2009 AWP Conference (in Chicago) proposals**. We encourage you to think about submitting one: see website for details: <http://www.awpwriter.org/conference/2009proposal.php>

"*The Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: Work from 1970 to the Present*" (Simon & Schuster) includes essays from two faculty members of the VCFA and one alum: **Robin Hemley, Sue William Silverman, and Harrison Fletcher**.

#### **MFWC&YA Alumni Gift Award update**

The Alumni Gift Award is given to a current MFWC&YA student every semester. Since this award began \$2,050 has been awarded; the cumulative donations are \$26,041.39, and the fund is currently valued at \$27,220.26 (as of 1/18/08). When the scholarship started the recipients were awarded \$250. The fund has already increased in value enough to support awards of \$500 per recipient. The goal is to grow the fund to an amount where an entire semester's tuition will be covered! The program is extremely grateful for all your donations and hope others will continue to give to this wonderful scholarship award. Donations to the Trust are tax deductible and contributions should be made out to T. Rowe Price Charitable Trust, the managers of the fund. Please contact Katie Gustafson at [katie.gustafson@tui.edu](mailto:katie.gustafson@tui.edu) or 802-828-8696 for more information.

**MFWC&YA Jan. 2008 scholarship/prize winners are:** Candlewick – Rebecca Van Slyke; Houghton

Mifflin/Clarion Prize – Marianna Baer; Critical Thesis Prize – Jandy Nelson; Alumni Gift Award – Erik Talkin; In a Nutshell Short Story Award – Larissa Theule.

We hope that if you are not already a subscriber to Hunger Mountain, you will consider purchasing a subscription: **we depend upon your support to keep it vital and thriving!** And, if your subscription has lapsed or is about to, please renew. In addition, please consider giving a gift subscription and/or asking your local or university library to subscribe. See [www.hungermtn.org](http://www.hungermtn.org) for subscription information and ordering.

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### CONTESTS

**HOWARD FRANK MOSHER SHORT FICTION PRIZE:** DEADLINE: June 1, 2008 - One \$1,000.00 prize winner receives publication in the Fall '08 Issue; two honorable mentions receive \$100.00 each. See website for more details: [www.hungermtn.org](http://www.hungermtn.org)

### GRANTS

The **Astraea's Lesbian Writers Fund** was established in 1990 with the generous support of its founding donor, Joan Drury. The purpose of the fund is to support the work of emerging lesbian writers, and to acknowledge the contributions of established lesbian writers to our movement and culture. First place awardees and two runners-up in the poetry and fiction categories will receive cash awards (\$10,000 for awardee; \$1,500 for runners-up). Thanks to Skip's Sappho Fund, at least one grant will be awarded to a lesbian writer who is based west of the Mississippi. **Application Deadline: June 30, '08.** For more information, including current criteria, guidelines and application forms, please contact: [grants@astraeafoundation.org](mailto:grants@astraeafoundation.org). or see guidelines: <http://www.astraea.org/Pdf/2007/0708LWFGuidelines.pdf>  
<http://www.astraea.org/PHP/Grants/DeadlinesAllGrants.php4>

### WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/RETREATS

THE WRITING SALON's "**Writing From The Imaginative Storm,**" a creativity retreat held in collaboration with Asheville WordFest 2008: Black

Mountains Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, **Apr. 21-27, '08.** (*The Asheville WordFest 2008 is made possible by the generous assistance of the North Carolina Humanities Council, Christ School, The Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center, and Malaprops.*) In this 24/7 world of cell phones, email, and wireless internet, imagine how enriching it would be to take a week off to write, to engage in dynamic conversations with other writers and indulge in an imaginative exploration that will carry your writing forward for years to come. Whether you're just beginning your writing life, or you're well-established and seeking new inspiration, The Writing Salon will reunite you with your sources of inspiration and help you discover wells of imagination you didn't know you had. Join poet James Navé, memoirist and screenwriter Allegra Huston, of the Hollywood Huston family, and poetic novelist Allan Wolf for this multi-genre spring fling in the mountains of North Carolina. ) "I've never attended any conference or workshop in which the principals worked so diligently to make the attendees comfortable, safe and pleased." - Mary Bryant.

If you are thinking of attending the **Aug. 8-14, '08 Postgraduate Writers' Conference**, please sign up as soon as possible. While there are openings left in Poetry, Poetry Ms, as well as Novel, Short Story, Short Story, and Creative Nonfiction, workshops are quickly filling, and several close to capacity. Many of you already know what our five-day writers' community can do to boost your work and creative spirit. If you're feeling the need to connect with fellow writers, discuss your own work as well as the work of others, and just hang out in an atmosphere that nurtures the creative impulse, e-mail me at [rogw12@comcast.net](mailto:rogw12@comcast.net) or give me a call at 802-223-2133, and I'll hold a place in one of our workshops. Still the only writers' conference designed for advance study, participants are among the best anywhere—a collection of poets and prose writers, not to mention the caliber of our faculty—who bring years of teaching and writing experience. The ratio is still only 5-7 participants per faculty member, thus providing the most focused and individualized workshop experience of any conference. 2008 Faculty: Novel: Ellen Lesser, Clint McCown; Short Story: Michael Martone, Antonya Nelson; Short Short Story: Ander Monson; Creative Nonfiction: Christopher Noel, Sue William Silverman; Poetry: Leslie Ullman, Bruce Weigl, Roger Weingarten; Poetry Manuscript: Robin Behn,

Richard Jackson, Charles Harper Webb. Website: <http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/> . Hope you can make it this year, and I look forward to hearing from you. Roger Weingarten

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### MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

**MOJIE CRIGLER's** short story "Triptych" was accepted for the spring issue of The Brooklyn Rail.

**KATE FLORA** writes in that "The Catch, which appears in the anthology I publish with two other writers, *Still Waters: Crime Stories by New England Writers*, has just been nominated for an Edgar Award for best short story. It is very gratifying, as well as almost incredible, that a story published in our little, indie anthology has been chosen as one of the five best for the year. Our author, Mark Ammons, for whom it was a first published story, also won the Robert L. Fish Award from the Mystery Writers of America, which is the award given to the best short story by a new author. Level Best is the joint project of three New England mystery writers who love short stories and the exciting challenge of finding and publishing great voices, new and established. We are now accepting submissions for the sixth anthology, through March 31st. Guidelines are on our website at [www.levelbestbooks.com](http://www.levelbestbooks.com)."

**SHEILA KAVENY'S** poem, "The Truth From Baba Yaga," will be published on the Fickle Muses website ([www.ficklemuses.com](http://www.ficklemuses.com)) April 6-12.

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### MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

**LINDA ALDRICH** (1/00) writes that she and David have recently moved from Colorado to South Newfane, Vermont, and her first chapbook, *Foothold*, will be published this spring through Finishing Line Press. She would love to re-connect with Vermont College friends at [lindaaldrich@mac.com](mailto:lindaaldrich@mac.com).

**SYBIL BAKER's** (7/05) novel, *The Life Plan*, will be published by Casperian Books in Spring '09. She will also have a story in an anthology collection also put out by Casperian to come out in late '08. This past fall her essay "The Kind of Traveler I Am" appeared in the travel anthology *A Woman's World*

*Again* and an essay on fellow VC alumni and poet Earl Braggs is forthcoming in *Alehouse*. Her essay, "In Defense of Telling: How to Put Your Ideas in Short Fiction," is forthcoming in Segue Magazine's Writing on Writing section, and was based on her graduation lecture at VC. She is enjoying working as an assistant professor of Creative Writing at Univ. of Tennessee, Chattanooga, which she started in fall '07. She adds, "Everyone on the creative writing faculty has ties to VC, which has been great fun!"

**ANNIE BREEDING's** (1/08) story, "Tranquility," is included in the recent edition of The Chariton Review.

**WALTER BUTTS** (1/95) has poetry forthcoming in Cider Press Review. His recently published chapbook, *What to Say if the Birds Ask*, is now available from Pudding House Publications ([www.puddinghouse.com](http://www.puddinghouse.com)). In Nov., Walter visited Iowa, where he was a guest writer at Cornell College and read at the Fairfield Public Library from *Sunday Evening at the Stardust Cafe*, winner of the 2006 Iowa Source Poetry Book Prize. The reading can be downloaded at [www.kruufm.com](http://www.kruufm.com). The events were coordinated by fellow VC alumni Rustin Larson and Glenn Freeman.

**TED DEPPE** (1/89) has just learned that his fourth book of poems, *Orpheus On The Red Line*, will be published by Tupelo Press in Spring '09. He is living in Donegal, Ireland.

**ELENA HARAP DODD's** (1/05) essay "This Gift" was accepted by the journal Amoskeag for their Spring 2008 issue, due out in April or early May.

**AUDREY FRIEDMAN's** (1/05) poem, "Long Term Storage," is included in the newly released anthology, *The Why and Later*, edited by Carley Sachs and published by Deep Cleveland Press. This is an important collection of poems written by and/or about women who have been sexually abused and part of the proceeds will be donated to rape crisis centers.

**PAULA GOLDMAN** (1/96) reports acceptances in Prairie Schooner, Bayou in New Orleans, finalist for the James Hearst Poetry Prize in the North American Review, as well as inclusion in the Random House, Knopf publication *Conversation Pieces*.

**LOIS GRUNWALD** (1/08) had three poems published in the book, *Leaves by Night, Flowers by Day*, published by the 2006 Iowa Poetry Source and edited by Rustin Larson, Nynke Passi, and Christine Schrum. The book includes selections from 33 poets and is based on the 2006 Iowa Source Poetry Contest.

**NICOLE GULOTTA** (1/07) was a finalist for the Georgetown Review's Poetry Prize, and her poem "Explorations" will be published in an upcoming '08 issue. She recently received a grant from the John E. Profant Foundation for the Arts, an organization that supports artists on California's central coast.

**ELOISE KLEIN HEALY's** (7/88) latest collection of poems, *The Islands Project: Poems For Sappho* (Red Hen Press, '07), went into second printing within 7 months of being published. Also, she now has had an imprint with Red Hen Press, Arktoi Books. She is focusing on publishing lesbian authors. The first Arktoi book, Elizabeth Bradfield's *Interpretive Work*, was available at AWP in New York in '08. Liz is currently a Stegner Fellow at Stanford Univ. Information about Arktoi Books is available at [www.redhen.org/asp.arktoi](http://www.redhen.org/asp.arktoi) or her webpage: [www.eloisekleinhealy.com](http://www.eloisekleinhealy.com)

**PATRICIA SPEARS JONES** (1/92) was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Fifth Wednesday*--a new journal out of Chicago. She has poems in *Not Enough Night*, an online journal (<http://www.naropa.edu/notenoughnight/fall07/index.toc.htm>), and new poems will be in Court Green, PMS and The Oxford-American. She will be teaching at the Solstice Summer Writers' Conference at Pine Manor College, June 22-28.

**LEATHA KENDRICK** (7/94) writes: "Just wanted to let you all know that my 3rd volume of poetry will be out from David Robert Books at the end of Feb. It's called *Second Opinion*, and you can view more information about it on either of these web pages:" <http://www.davidrobertbooks.com/kendrick.html> or <http://www.leathakendrick.com/>

**RUSTIN LARSON's** (7/86) reading at the Univ. of Iowa can be downloaded at this link: [http://128.255.60.46:8080/ramgen/wsuiarc/LPL2005\\_07\\_26.rm](http://128.255.60.46:8080/ramgen/wsuiarc/LPL2005_07_26.rm) . He also reports having poems forthcoming in Poetry East, Saranac Review, Midway Journal and Illya's Honey.

**LINDA (BENORE) LETGERS** (1/98) was interviewed by Daniel Jaffe (7/97) for his Bibliophile program. You can read find it at [www.bibliobuffet.com/bb/content/view/577/198/](http://www.bibliobuffet.com/bb/content/view/577/198/) .

**LYNN LEVIN's** (7/00) cnf piece, "How to Eat a Pet: A Gastronomic Adventure in the Andes," was named a Notable Essay of 2006 by Best American Essays. The essay was first published in Alimentum and then picked up by the online journals The Smart Set and More Intelligent Life. She has new poems in Cimarron Review, 5 AM, Knockout, U. S. 1 Worksheets, Nerve Cowboy, and online on Verse Daily, Mannequin Envy, kaleidowhirl, and Word Riot. In 2008 two of her poems will appear in Hebrew translation in the Israeli literary journal Helicon. She has also been translating work by Peruvian Andean poets. Some of her translations are online now in Per Contra (one poem by Odi Gonzales) and Painted Bride Quarterly (one poem by Luis Nieto). She also has poems in the new book, *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (Union for Reform Judaism Press, '07). Lynn continues to teach at the Univ. of Pennsylvania and at Drexel Univ., where she is also the executive producer of the TV show, "The Drexel InterView," now in its fifth season.

**KEVIN MCLELLAN** (7/99) has recent or forthcoming poems in: The Apple Valley Review, Beauty/Truth: A Journal of Ekphrastic Poetry, BLOOM, Inch, Interim, and Wheelhouse.

**JANET MENDELSON** (1/06) tells us she has had a CNF essay receive Honorable Mention in the 76th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition. Her essay, "Flying Fingering, Solo Swimmer," was among more than 19,000 submissions this year. It was first published last winter in Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors magazine. Another of her essays also received an Honorable Mention in '06.

**SAWNIE MORRIS** (1/00) writes, "In 2005, I was invited by the editor of *Tres Chicas Books* to submit a chapbook of landscape poems for inclusion in a collection -- with two other poets -- subsequently published in 2006. The volume, *The Sound a Raven Makes* includes my thirty-page chapbook, *Matapolvero Rain*, and is winner of the 2007 New Mexico Book Award for Best of Poetry, sponsored by Borders Bookstore, along with 'a host of libraries and other booksellers throughout New Mexico. Submissions

for the award were books of poetry published anywhere in the United States during '05-'07 that were related to the Southwest/New Mexico. *The Sound a Raven Makes* is also available through Spring Church Books (1-800-496-1262) or Small Press Distribution."

**VERBENA PASTOR** (1/97) has been invited to be a guest at the Mantova (Mantua) Festival (Italy) in the Fall of '08. In the spring of '08 St Martin's Press will publish *The Fire Waker*, sequel to *The Water Thief*, and its Italian translation will follow shortly. This fall, The WT came out in Spain as *Conspiratio: El Caso del Ladron de Agua*, while in Italy Hobby and Work published *La Camera dello Scirocco (The Sirocco Chamber)*, a sequel to *I Misteri di Praga*.

**ANGELA PATTEN**'s (7/96) new poetry collection, *Reliquaries*, was just published by Salmon Press (Ireland). Her first collection, *Still Listening*, was also published by Salmon in '99. She adds. "I'm currently in Belfast, Northern Ireland, completing a poetry residency with my husband, poet Daniel Lusk. You can find out more about both of us and our work at [www.carraigbinn.com](http://www.carraigbinn.com)"

**CYNTHIA SAMPLE** (7/05) will have stories in *Between the Lines*, the literary journal of South Arkansas Community College. The stories are: "The Prayer Diary of Doreen Newton" and "Windows."

**ADA JILL SCHNEIDER** (7/01) has book reviews of *Chopin's Piano* by Charles Ades Fishman and *Connecting Flights* by Lou Barrett in the Nov./Dec. issue of *Midstream* magazine.

**JOAN SELIGER SIDNEY**'s (7/89) translations of two poems by Jacques Alvarez-Pereyre were published in the fall issue of the *Connecticut Review*.

**S STEPHANIE** (7/97) received a fellowship from The Frost Place in '07. She currently has poems in *Rattle* and *The Southern Review*.

**TOM WATSON** (7/99) published his second book, entitled *See Rock City and Other Stories*.

**JAN WESLEY**'s (7/01) first book, titled *Living in Freefall* is now out, published by Main Street Rag in North Carolina.

**YVONNE ZIPTER**'s (7/95) chapbook, *Like Some Bookie God*, has been nominated for a Dog Writers Assoc. of America award and her poem "Osteosarcoma: A Love Poem" is scheduled for the next issue of *Poetry* magazine

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### **MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS**

**PHYLLIS BARBER**'s creative nonfiction has been included in *After the Bell: Contemporary American Prose about School*, an anthology edited by Maggie Anderson & David Hassler and published by the Univ. of Iowa Press.

**ROBIN BEHN** will read poems from the installation "Naked Writing" and give a talk about the interdisciplinary artistic process with her collaborator, Chicago artist Mirjana Ugrinov, at ARC Gallery on Sat., Feb. 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Behn is a Barrington native, former Guggenheim fellow and author of four books of poems. Resembling huge pages of a book unfurling in air, the lines of Behn's poetry are superimposed on Ugrinov's sculpted, translucent sheets to tell a complex, erotic storyline in several voices. The exhibition is on display 2/6-3/1/08 with an opening reception Fri., Feb. 8th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. A handmade chapbook, *Naked Writing from DoubleCross Press*, will be available for purchase. [www.arcgallery.org](http://www.arcgallery.org), 832 W. Superior St. #204, Chicago IL 60622, (312) 733-2787. For more information, contact [www.arcgallery.org](http://www.arcgallery.org) or [rbehn@ua.edu](mailto:rbehn@ua.edu)

**RICHARD JACKSON** will be teaching at the Univ. of Iowa Summer Program in June, the Prague Summer Sessions in July and the VC Post Grad Workshop in Aug. He read recently at Lee Univ. and the Russian Samovar in New York, chaired a panel on "Neglected and Forgotten Poets" and participated in one on "Teaching Graduate Creative Writing," both at AWP. New Poems will be appearing in *Georgia Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Cave Wall*, *Ecotone*, *Third Coast*, *Prairie Schooner* and a translation in *Nouri Voima* (Finland). He will be leading a creative writing trip to Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia in May that includes three former Vermont College grads.

**ELLEN LESSER** will participate in a panel discussion on reading recommendations to help launch the National Book Critics' Circle's new "Best Reads" list at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, VT, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22. Her short story, "Talk," is forthcoming in North American Review. Another new story, "Escort," part of the same linked collection-in-progress, was chosen as a finalist in the latest "Family Matters" competition from Glimmertrain. Ellen will be teaching a novel workshop at the Postgraduate Writer's Conference in Aug.

**CLINT MCCOWN** will be reading from his new book of poems, *Dead Languages*, in Tallahassee, Florida, on Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., at Word Traffic Books, Inc. at 1227 E. Lafayette Street.

**DOMENIC STANSBERRY** was recently named a San Francisco Literary Laureate for 2008 by the San Francisco Public Library. His new book, *The Ancient Rain*, will be released in mid-April. He will be doing a tour of book stores on the West Coast, including appearances at the LA Festival of Books and at Elliott Bay in Seattle.

**ROGER WEINGARTEN** will be teaching 3 poetry workshops in Asheville, Greensboro, and Charlotte, North Carolina on Mar. 27, 29, and 31st. If you're interested, please contact Roger at [rogw12@comcast.net](mailto:rogw12@comcast.net). He'll also be teaching at the Prague Writing Seminars the last 2 weeks of July and at Aug. 8-14th Postgraduate Writers' Conference.

**XU XI** reports the following: Honors & Awards: She will be the first Writer-in-Residence (English language) at Hong Kong's Lingnan Univ. this spring, funded by the Lingnan Foundation, which has, since its founding in the early 1900's, supported Sino-U.S. cultural exchange. She will also run a writing workshop at Sun Yat Sen Univ. in Guangzhou as part of the residency. Appearances: Feb./Mar. at the MAN International Literary Festival, she will conduct a one-on-one "conversation with the author" Ian McEwan and chair two panels, on the short story and the historical novel, with an international group of writers. Writers at Play: Mar. 2, '08 for anyone in or near Hong Kong, stop by at 5 pm to the rooftop garden bar of The Fringe for the launch party of *Fifty-Fifty* (Haven Books) an anthology of new Hong Kong writing which she edited.

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### MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

**MICOL OSTOW's** YA novel writing course through Media Bistro NYC has been renewed through spring '08, and she'll also be teaching a YA writing seminar through the Writer's Institute at Miami Dade College this May. Come workshop!

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### MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

**SARAH ARONSON** (7/06) is proud to announce that her novel, *Head Case*, was named a 2008 Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. She also got married this Dec. In attendance: alums Tami Lewis Brown, Cindy Faughnan, Carrie Jones, and Hatsy McGraw.

**ANNA MARIE BLACK** (1/99) is pleased to report that her physician tells her she is cured of thyroid cancer.

**ELIZABETH BLUEMLE's** (7/04) first picture book, *My Father the Dog* (illustrated by Randy Cecil, published by Candlewick Press), will be released in paperback this Apr. Elizabeth's second picture book, *Dogs on the Bed* (illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf, published by Candlewick Press), will be published this fall.

**SUNDEE FRAZIER** (7/04) was recently awarded the American Librarian Association's Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award. "Never in my wildest imagination could I have thought up such a wonderful twist to Brendan's story. I'm so proud of him, and thrilled to have been chosen for this incredible honor!"

**HELEN HEMPHILL's** (1/04, PG 7/04) middle grade novel *The Adventurous Deeds Of Deadwood Jones* will be published by Front Street this fall, and she will be teaching a Highlights Founders Workshop, "Plotting the Novel" in Sept.

**KARIN HUXMAN's** (7/01) second picture book, *Grizzelda Gorilla*, written under her K.D. Huxman pen name, is a finalist for an EPIIE, an award that celebrates the best in electronic publishing. The book

is also available in hard cover and paperback. The winners will be announced in Mar.

**SARAH LAMSTEIN** (1/03) is happy to announce that her Chanukah tale, *Letter on the Wind*, illustrated by Neil Waldman (Boyd's Mills Press), received a 2008 Honor Award for Younger Readers from the Association of Jewish Libraries.

**CAROLYN MARSDEN's** (7/00) new middle grade novel, *The Buddha's Diamonds*, will be released by Candlewick in Feb. '08.

**ANGELA MORRISON** (7/04) is ecstatic to announce that she signed a two-book deal with Razorbill, Penguin's YA imprint. Angela and her family still live in Lausanne, Switzerland but will move to Singapore this summer where her husband has a year long assignment. In June '09, they are moving home to Scottsdale, AZ, just in time to celebrate the release of Angela's soon to be re-titled creative thesis, *Hurricane Season*, which is scheduled for Razorbill's spring '09 list.

**ALICIA POTTER** (1/05) published a humor piece, "Ad Hoc," in the Jan./Feb. '08 issue of the Horn Book.

**SHERRY SHAHAN** (7/07) just signed a contract for a picture book, *Fiesta!* (August House), which is her third collaboration with Ecuadorian illustrator Paula Barragan. An animated version of their first book together, *Spicy Hot Colors/Colores Picantes*, was featured on PBS Kids' "Between the Lions." Sherry is the photographer on a middle-grade book featuring poet Nikki Grimes for Richard Owen Publishers. A travel article about surfing in Hawaii appeared in Spirit of Aloha, an airline magazine, and her poem "A Potato Has Eyes" was published on the "Kids Space" page of Christian Science Monitor. Sherry continues to teach an online writing course via UCLA extension.

**TERESA OWENS SMITH** (7/07) has a poem coming out, entitled "Giraffe Kisses," in the Jan./Feb. '08 issue of Zootles, a children's wildlife magazine.

**SARAH SULLIVAN** (1/05) sold her fourth picture book, *The Amazing Adventures of Lizzie and Marvin*, to Farrar, Straus and Giroux. She wrote it while she was a student in the program.

**ZU VINCENT's** (1/06) YA novel *The Lucky Place* is coming in Apr. from Front Street Press. Her essay "Mind the Gap" will appear in *Through the Wardrobe: Your Favorite Authors on C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia* (BenBella Books, Mar. '08).

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### MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

**M. T. ANDERSON** and **CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH** were featured authors at the 2007 National Book Festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Cynthia also was a featured author at the 2007 Texas Book Festival and 2007 Kansas Book Festival.

This fall **SHARON DARROW** led a retreat workshop at Abbaye Royaumont in France, taught a master class in Paris, and took a side trip to Bologna to visit her daughter in grad school there.

**JULIE LARIOS** recently addressed the Western Washington SCBWI on "Playing Poetry with the Net Up: On the Pleasures of Form." She will deliver a guest lecture in Mar. on "The Architecture of Poetry: Building Materials in the Poet's Toolbox" to students enrolled in the Univ. of Washington's certificate program in Writing for Children.

**NORMA FOX MAZER's** new young adult novel, *The Missing Girl*, will be published in Feb. It's received three starred reviews and has been acquired for publication in Australia, France, and Germany.

**CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH's** YA novel *Tantalize* (Candlewick, '07) was named a Borders Original Voices Choice and will be released on audio in spring '08 by Listening Library and in paperback in fall '08 by both Candlewick Press and Walker U.K. She is in the process of writing a graphic novel adaptation of the book.

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Newsletter Editors: Louise Crowley, Melissa Fisher, Katie Gustafson, Susannah Noel, James Poindexter.