

MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Union Institute & University

NEWSLETTER

November 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Does anyone have a tape of the Mary Ruefle “Lecture on Nothing” from July, 06? Our copy is broken so if you have one please email Melissa.fisher@tui.edu – thank you!

GIVE A GIFT OF HUNGER MOUNTAIN TO A FELLOW WRITER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Hunger Mountain’s **FALL 2007 ISSUE** (our 5th anniversary issue, #11) features work selected by Guest Editors Phyllis Barber, Richard Jackson, Ellen Lesser and Natasha Sajé, plus the winner of the Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize, Andrew McCuiag’s “A Soldier’s Story,” selected by Wally Lamb. The issue also features a tribute to Grace Paley and a 5th anniversary color artwork retrospective. New fiction, from writers Katherine Lien Chariott, Randa Jarrar, John J. McLaughlin, Rae Paris, Jacob Paul, and Gladys Swan. New creative nonfiction from writers Robin Hemley, Heather Kirn and Lance Larsen. Poems by Agi Mishol translated from the Hebrew by Lisa Katz. New poems by Marvin Bell, Lisa Bickmore, Kamau Brathwaite, Deborah Brown, Sandra M. Castillo, Keith Driver, Gary Fincke, Beckian Fritz Goldberg, Bob Hicok, Mark Jarman, Shirley Kaufman, Sarah Maclay, Sebastian Matthews, Ashley McWaters, Erin Moure, Bradley Paul, Chad Prevost, George Szirtes, Kim Cope Tait, Susan Thomas, Jennifer Tonge, and many more.

HOLIDAY EBAY AUCTION: Who’s the writer on your gift list? Join us for the **Hunger Mountain** Holiday Ebay Auction, featuring manuscript critiques with notable writers, as well as many signed books, **beginning December 1st at www.ebay.com.**

Critiques in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and writing for children will be offered by mail, phone and email. For details, visit www.hungermtn.org.

Please contact us if you are interested in writing a review or article about **Hunger Mountain**; we have many ideas for feature articles or sidebars, including interviews and quotes from editors, authors and artists, many of whom are Vermonters and Vermont College alumni. **Hunger Mountain** and Vermont College also regularly organizes events that may be of interest to readers, such as the Post-Graduate Writers’ Conference, a new anthology of short stories by Vermont College MFA in Writing graduates titled, *The Way We Knew It*, or **Hunger Mountain** author readings, recently hosted in Boston and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and forthcoming in Portsmouth, NH, and Iowa City.

Note that the **December** issue of the **Writer’s Chronicle** contains essays or interviews by four Vermont College folks: faculty member Leslie Ullman and alumni Andre Gritsman, Patty Crane and Anne deMarcken.

Vermont College MFA Alum: If you are thinking of attending the Aug. 8-14 2008 Postgraduate Writers’ Conference, please sign up as soon as possible. While we have openings in Poetry and Poetry Manuscript as well as Novel, Short Story, Short Short Story and Creative Nonfiction, the reserve list is quickly filling up, and several are close to full. This has been the case since Carolyn Wright’s article appeared in the Mar/Apr. ‘05 **Poets & Writers**. 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 or call 802-223-2133, and I'll hold your place in one of our workshops. Still the only writers' conference designed for advance study, our participants are among the best anywhere—a collection of seasoned poets, fiction writers, and memoirists. Not to mention the caliber of our faculty, who bring years of teaching and writing experience to the workshops and classes. 2008 Faculty include 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. Here's the link to our website: <http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/> Hope you can make it this year, and I look forward to hearing from you. Roger Weingarten

MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults Announcements:

A bit belatedly, we would like to announce the **scholarship recipients** from the July 2007 residency: The Alumni Gift Award winner was **Carol Brendler**; the Critical Thesis Prize was awarded to **Nancy Thalia Reynolds**; **Erik Talkin** received the Flying Pig Grade-A, Number-One Ham Humor Award. The winner of the 3rd Semester Program Scholarship, which was a one-time award given to students who missed out on the opportunity to apply for the Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Scholarship, was **Julianna Berry**. Finally, **Nancy Bo Flood**, **Catherine Linka**, and **Nicole Schreiber** received the Harcourt Post-Graduate Scholarships. Nancy and Catherine were able to join us for a post-graduate semester, which they're both completing now. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who applied. We will be awarding the following scholarships at the Jan. '08 residency: Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Prize, In a Nutshell Story Award, Candlewick Picture Book Scholarship, Alumni Gift Award, Critical Thesis Prize, and Marion Dane Bauer Faculty Scholarship.

This summer we will be hosting our first **Alumni Residency** on July 11–13. Activities will include workshops with other alumni, an alumni meeting, regular residency lectures and readings, and, of course, socializing! We have scheduled this to correspond with our **Special Event Day**, which will

be held on July 12 and will focus on the picture book. We're still in the early stages of planning, but please feel free to contact Katie (Katie.Gustafson@tui.edu) or Susannah (Susannah.Noel@tui.edu) with questions. We will send out more information about both events as the dates near.

Tami Lewis Brown, Sarah Aronson, Kelly Bingham, Liz Gallagher, Carrie Jones, Sarah Sullivan, Zu Vincent, Stephanie Greene, and Helen Hemphill started a blog on the craft of writing on Oct. 1. It's called Through the Tollbooth and the Web address is http://community.livejournal.com/thru_the_booth. They would love to have students and alumni stop by and say hello.

SUBMISSIONS

Hunger Mountain is taking submissions to the Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry until Dec. 10th. Nance Van Winckel is this year's judge and the prize is \$1,000 plus publication. Guidelines can be found at <http://www.tui.edu/hungermtn/index.asp>

Salt Hill is published by a group of writers affiliated with the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse Univ. They are currently looking for contributors to add to the 21st issue. The editors welcome submissions of poetry, prose, translations, reviews, essays, interviews and artwork submitted by Apr. 1. They do not accept electronic submissions. To submit, address your work to the appropriate editor (poetry, fiction or nonfiction) at: **Salt Hill**, Syracuse Univ., English Dept., Syracuse, NY 13244.

Alumni Bruce Spang (7/01), Associate Editor with the *Café Review*, writes that they are always interested in finding new poets with new ideas and new styles. You need to enclose \$1 for a reading fee and an SASE. More information can be found at: <http://www.thecafereview.com/>

Hayden's Ferry Review is looking for prose, poetry, and visual art for its upcoming issue themed "The Grotesque". Work should explore the humanity, beauty, and reality of the literary grotesque - the monstrous, the unusual, the abnormal. Postmark deadline: Jan.15, '08. Send to: *Hayden's Ferry Review*, The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,

Arizona State Univ., Box 875002 Tempe, AZ 85287-5002.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

NANCY BO FLOOD's nonfiction picture book, *Navajo Year, Walk Through Many Seasons*, received two awards: a 2007 Children's Choice selection and the Arizona Book Award for children's nonfiction.

ALLYSON VALENTINE SCHRIER placed third in the Pacific Northwest Writer's Association's 2007 Literary Contest in their children's writing division.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

ANN ANGEL (1/99) will be on a panel about Place and Genre at the NCTE/ALAN (National Council for the Teachers of English/Assembly of Literature for Adolescents) workshops, Nov. 20, where she will draw examples of place mirroring emotional growth from *Such A Pretty Face, Short Stories about Beauty*. This book was nominated for the 2008 Best Books for Young Adults list; winners will be announced at the end of Jan. Past and present Vermont College faculty with essays in the book include Norma Fox Mazer, Chris Lynch, Ron Koertge, Louise Hawes, Tim Wynne-Jones, and Jackie Woodson. Alumni include Mary Ann Rodman, Lauren Myracle, Anita Riggio, Jamie Pittel, and J. James Keels. Ellen Wittlinger also wrote a story for the book.

TONI DE PALMA (TONI PALMERIO) (1/03) will be participating in the ALAN panel for New Voices at NCTE in New York on Nov. 20th. She will also be giving a workshop and signing books that weekend.

SUNDEE FRAZIER's (7/04) book *Brendan Buckley's Universe & Everything In It* was released Oct. 9. Kirkus Reviews called it "a good, accessible selection for inspiring discussion of racism and prejudice," and SLJ said "Frazier writes affectingly about what being biracial means in 21st-century

America." Sundee was most pleased, however, with the review of one seven-year-old who according to her mom got up at 6 a.m. to read the book in one sitting!

JULIA FRICKERT (7/03), her husband Brian, and their son Henry welcomed baby Silas James on Sept. 26.

STEPHANIE GREENE (1/07) sold her new middle grade novel, *The Lucky Ones*, to Greenwillow. Publication is set for next summer. It was her creative thesis. She also sold an early reader, *The Pink Princess*, to Putnam. A publication date has not yet been set.

DONNA GUTHRIE (1/06) is currently producing a new series for home schoolers titled "Meet Me At The Corner". Directed at America's 2.5 million children who are home schooled, each four- to five-minute show explores New York City and its wonders from a child's point of view. If you are interested in seeing these shows, which Donna wrote, directed, edited, and produced, check out www.meetmeatthecorner.org.

BETHANY HEGEDUS (1/05) has sold her creative thesis, *Between Us Baxters*, a middle-grade novel set in the South during the civil rights era, to WestSide Books. Expected publication is spring '08 and the novel will help to launch the WestSide line.

HELEN HEMPHILL's (1/04, PG 7/04) book *Long Gone Daddy* won the 2007 Teddy Award from the Writers' League of Texas for best children's book (long form). Her newest novel, *Runaround*, was just named in the Top Ten Romance Books for Youth by Booklist and received its second starred review from Library Media Connection.

KIMBERLY HEUSTON (1/00) welcomed her first grandchild, Zoe Zell Sorenson, in June. Her novel, *The Book of Jude*, will be published by Front Street in Mar.

KIM WILLIAMS JUSTESEN (7/03) was a featured presenter on Nov. 17 at the Utah Chapter of the International Reading Association. She will also be signing the *Hey, Ranger* series and *My Brother the Dog* at Barnes & Noble in West Jordan, Utah, on Dec. 8. Her second novel, a YA from Tanglewood Press called *The Deepest Blue*, has been given a

spring '09 release date. And her Web site is up and running: www.kimwjjustesen.com.

BARBARA KRASNER (1/06) reports that her MFAWC&YA graduate lecture, "Sketch Your Emotion," will appear in the Mar. '08 issue of The Writer. Also, Barbara is the co-coordinator of the Ninth Annual Jewish Children's Book Writers' Conference, held at the 92nd Street Y in New York City on Nov. 18th.

RENÉ COLATO LAINEZ (7/05) writes that Piñata Books accepted his manuscript *Rene Has Two Last Names* for publication. This is the second book in the René series. *I Am Rene*, *The Boy* won a Latino Book Award for best bilingual book of 2006 and a Special Recognition in the 2006 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People.

SARAH LAMSTEIN (1/03) is happy to announce that her Chanukah tale *Letter On The Wind*, illustrated by Neil Waldman and published by Boyds Mills, is out just in time for the holiday.

SHENAAZ NANJI (1/04) reports: "Front Street will release my novel *A Child of Dandelions* in Feb. '08. It is an account of one girl's determination to triumph over a devastating historical event in Uganda during the reign of President Idi Amin, also known as the Last King of Scotland. The story was part of my creative thesis at Vermont College."

ALICIA POTTER (1/05) writes: "The Associates of the Boston Public Library awarded me a special acknowledgment and a \$5,000 prize as part of their Children's Writer-in-Residence Fellowship. I am the first picture-book author to be recognized by the program. I also recently sold my second picture book, *Fritz Danced the Fandango*, to Scholastic."

SHERRY SHAHAN (7/07) received a terrific review of her new picture book, *That's Not How You Play Soccer, Daddy!* (Peachtree, Fall '07) in Booklist. Her adventure novel for middle-grade readers, *Death Mountain* (Peachtree), is now out in paperback. The latest issue of Highlights High-Five contains her photo-illustrated poem "What Will You Do Today?" Also, the literary journal Confrontation just published her short story "Jesus Rides Shotgun."

EMILY WING SMITH (1/07) sold her first young adult novel, *Sunday's Child*, to Flux, to be released either next autumn or the following spring.

BARBARA STEINHAUSER (7/01) writes: "I am a writer who has etched stories in cyberspace, but never had the opportunity to witness how these stories translate into hard copy. The world opened to me when I discovered digital publishing! I joined a growing genre of writer artists who create unique books edited and published from the heart at my site, www.storytellersrus.com. My first picture book described an event from my mom's childhood titled *The Best Potato Pickers in the County* and was presented to my mother on her 80th birthday. I cannot describe the deep connection we felt as she cradled my words in her hands at last."

SARAH SULLIVAN (1/05) reports that her poem, "Natural History," appears in the Nov. issue of Cricket magazine.

THELMA WYSS (1/99) writes that her latest book, *A Tale of Gold*, was published this fall by Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster. It is historical fiction for middle grade readers about the gold rush to the Yukon in 1897.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

TOBIN ANDERSON received the top fiction and poetry Boston Globe–Horn Book Award for his book *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing*. (As most of you know, this book was also winner of the 2006 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and was named a 2007 Printz Honor Book.) **TIM WYNNE-JONES** received a Boston Globe–Horn Book Honor Book Award for *Rex Zero and the End of the World*.

SARAH ELLIS won the 2006 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award for her book *Odd Man Out*, which comes with \$20,000. **TIM WYNNE-JONES** received a 2006 honor award from TD Canadian Children's Literature for *Rex Zero and the End of the World*.

JANE KURTZ's new ready-to-read came out this fall from Simon & Schuster. It's titled *What Columbus Found: It Was Orange, It Was Round*.

Also, Ethiopia Reads and Jane's work in Ethiopia were written up in the Oct. issue of Good Housekeeping.

TIM WYNNE-JONES and **SARAH ELLIS** both gave papers at the Particles of Narrative conference in Toronto Oct. 26-27.



MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

DAN BUTTERFASS recently had 6 poems published in Interpozeia, an on-line bilingual magazine presenting poems in English and Russian; 5 poems are forthcoming in the Jan. '08 issue of the print/online literary journal Cavewall; 2 poems will appear in the Winter '08 issue of the on-line journal Iddie; and 2 poems will appear in the Winter '08 issue of the print journal Main Channel Voices.

JON CONE has had work accepted in the literary review Four W (Australia) and a poem accepted by the on-line journal Elimae.

JEWEL BETH DAVIS' CNF piece "My Friend the Bee" has been accepted by Read This: Montana State University's Literary and Art Publication.

HOLLY JONES' short story, "Paper Airplanes", will be published in Talking River Review in 2008.

ASHLEY SEITZ KRAMER's short essay, "The Sled," was accepted for the Jan. '08 issue of Brevity.

MARIE MCGRATH (Fiction) and **MARIE MASTERS** (CNF) are serving as editors of a new online literary journal. The first issue of iddie came online in Summer '07, and can be read at www.iddie.net. We hope to provide a welcoming home to quality fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction from both emerging and established writers, and to share our passion for great writing with as many people as possible.

ADAM TAVEL will have two poems in the Dec. issue of The Oklahoma Review.



MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

LINDA ALDRICH (1/00) writes that she and David have recently moved from Colorado to South Newfane, VT, 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.

MARY BAILEY (7/99) has two short stories coming out: "Water Works" in the Connecticut Review Vol. 29 No 2 this fall; and "Body on the Floor" in Gargoyle #53 in the summer of 2008.

THOMAS P. BALÁZS (7/03) was appointed to the position of assistant professor of English, teaching creative writing, at the Univ. of Tennessee this past Aug.

RON BERGER (1/04) has published a column in the *New York Times* in 2007 [Jan. 28].

EMILY BILMAN (7/99) has finished her PhD thesis on Eliot, Valéry, and will be submitting it next Oct., while waiting to hear from UEA the time that her defense will be scheduled.

NICKOLE BROWN's (1/03) book *Sister: Poems*, was published by Red Hen Press in Sept.

RANDALL BROWN (7/06) began teaching at Saint Joseph's Univ. this fall. He has work appearing or forthcoming in Dalhousie Review, King's English, Vestal Review, American Drivel Review, and others. Also, he will be presenting at the Philadelphia's Writer Conference and the "Push to Publish" Conference at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia-based InterAct Theatre recently chose his story "Losing in General" for their 2007-2008 Writing Aloud Series. Also, he received four nominations for an upcoming Best of the Web print anthology. Finally, he ended his editorial tenure with SmokeLong Quarterly in Sept., having published flash fiction by Dan Chaon, Steve Almond, Stuart Dybek, Sherrie Flick, Robert Shapard, Melanie Rae Thon, and many other exceptional writers.

MAGGIE BUCHOLT (1/05) is happy to pass along the first review of "Desire." Go to <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6477481.html> and scroll down to the category "Social Science."

KARLEN CHASE (1/05) tells us that The Buffalo News is one of the only daily newspapers in the

country that still has a dedicated space for poetry. Its "Poetry Page" is published the first Sunday of each month. In the Nov. 4th issue, she will have a poem, "Shinkontan," published next to work by Ann Goldsmith and Robert Hass.

ALEXANDRA CHASIN's (1/02) collection of short fiction, *Kissed By*, published by Fiction Collective 2, was released in Sept.

NANNETTE CRANE's (7/06) story "Sunday Best," has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and her story "Bees in Hot Corners" is in the Oct. edition of the Arkansas Literary Forum. She also teaches Composition and Creative Writing classes at Henderson State Univ. and National Park Community College.

VIVIAN DORSEL (7/06) announces that six pieces appearing in upstreet number three, three of them by VC MFA Program alumni/ae, have been nominated by the journal for Pushcart Prizes, and will go on to compete for inclusion in the 2008 Pushcart Prize anthology. The works by VC graduates are short stories "Sunday Best" by Nannette Crane and "Michael Ryan" by Joyce A. Griffin, and personal narrative "Born Again" by Frank Tempone. upstreet number three, featuring an interview with VCMFA alumnus Wally Lamb, also contains work by alumni Patricia Crane, Karen Michelle Otero, Shawne Steiger, and Karen D. Taylor. Fiction Editor is Robin Oliveira, CNF Editor is Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, and Editor/Publisher is Vivian Dorsel, all VCMFA graduates. upstreet number three is now available for sale in bookstores and online at www.amazon.com. Submissions are currently being considered for upstreet number four. For guidelines, visit www.upstreet-mag.org.

EVAN FALLENBERG's (1/01) first novel, *Light Fell*, is due out from Soho Press on Jan. 1. Evan looks forward to celebrating the event with new friends and old during the VC winter residency, where he will be serving as alumni reader and visiting translator. New translations of his are out or forthcoming: Meir Shalev's *A Pigeon and a Boy* (Schocken) and Ron Leshem's *Beaufort* (Bantam Dell). Evan has recently been teaching in the master's program in creative writing at Bar Ilan Univ. in Israel. He invites you to meet up with him as he tours North America for his book. Details will be posted on his website (www.evanfallenberg.com).

RICHARD FARRELL (1/94) "has finally sold his memoir. . ." It took 14 years but *What's Left of Us* has found a cover at Kensington Books in New York City. The original manuscript, *Zebra Stripes*, was written while a student at Vermont College under the tutelage of Phyllis Barber, Sharon Sheehe Stark and Gladys Swan. In 1994, the manuscript was rejected by 34 publishers. Ten years later, after a major rewrite and under a new name - *The Truth About The Lies* - was rejected by 28 New York City publishers. Last summer, with a new agent in tow and a complete house cleaning of the manuscripts, *What's Left of Us* received 3 offers. The manuscript's deadline is June 1, '08 and will be in bookstores spring '09. Richard Farrell lives in Milford, New Hampshire.

DEBRA FITZGERALD (1/02) just had the first chapter of her novel, *The Properties of Light*, published by Cross+Roads Press in an anthology edited by Norbert Blei entitled, *Other Voices*.

CHUCK FORESTER (7/04) has a chapter in the book *Love, Castro Street (Alyson)*. The book was released in May and is an anthology of anecdotes about the lives of gay men and women in San Francisco.

AUDREY FRIEDMAN's (1/05) haibun, "Sifting," will appear in the Dec. issue of "Contemporary Haibun On-line." "At the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival" will be included in the next edition of The DuPage Review: A Journal of Art and Culture (Benedictine Univ.). "Reflection" and "Damned and Not Yet Thirty" is forthcoming in the Newport Review (<http://www.newportreview.org>). Audrey has been facilitating an on-line poetry workshop for the last two years. If you're interested in participating, please e-mail her at poemlady@cox.net. In addition, Audrey writes: "This past Sunday was the opening of "Bird Sightings," a multi-media exhibit at the Atrium Gallery at the Univ. of Southern Maine in Lewiston/Auburn. I was so proud to attend, to see my poem stenciled on the gallery wall, and to read in such good company. I wanted to share this little bit of fame with all my mentors and friends. You are all a part of each and every success of mine!"

LISHA ADELA GARCÍA (1/05) writes: "I am honored to announce the publication of my chapbook, *This Stone Will Speak* by Pudding House

Press. I also have a poem, "San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio de Bejar, Día de los Muertos", coming out in the Sept. issue of Crab Orchard Review. Also, "Breathing Forward in America" is coming out in the Sept. issue of Eden River Press for its dedicated theme of HOME."

DEBRA GINGERICH (7/02) tells us that on Thursday, Aug. 23, Garrison Keillor (host of *A Prairie Home Companion* on NPR) read one of her poems on *The Writer's Almanac*, a 5-minute program that includes a list of cultural events and anniversaries, many associated with literature and literary figures, then ends with the poetry reading. You can look up the week of Aug. 2007/08/20 in the archives. Learn about Debra's poetry and her book *Where We Start* at www.debragingerich.com.

GLADYS GOLDBERG (7/99) had a poem accepted by U.S.1 Worksheets, a well-established litmag in area of Princeton, NJ.

DEAN GORMAN (1/07) has 3 poems in the journal Forklift, Ohio and an essay on Ted Berrigan in the current issue of Octopus (www.octopusmagazine.com).

HARRY GROOME (1/00) will have a novel, titled *Wing Walking*, published soon by The Connelly Press. It will be available through the on-line retailers Dec. 1; after Jan.1 it will be available everywhere fine books are sold. Bret Lott called *Wing Walking* "an elegantly taut page-turner, an intelligent tale of suspense and corporate double-dealing."

DAWN D. HAINES' (1/06) essay "Coming Clean" was a finalist in the 2007 New Letters Awards and her essay "Paper Wasp" was awarded an Honorable Mention in the 76th Annual Writer's Digest contest in the category Memoir/Essay.

MEREDITH DAVIES HADAWAY's (7/03) poem, "Yahrzeit," has been nominated for a 2007 Pushcart Prize. She will be reading at the 9th Annual John Milton Celebration of Poets & Poetry in Milton, Delaware, in early Dec., where she will also be a panelist in a discussion of "Poetry of Place."

ALLISON HEDGE COKE (7/95) was the sole poet from the United States to read at the International Festival of Poetry in Rosario, Argentina this year (in

Oct.). She keynoted the Transformative Language Program at Goddard just prior to leaving. Hedge Coke has won several awards and is the author of four poetry volumes, a memoir, and the editor of six anthologies. She is the Distinguished Paul and Clarice Reynolds Chair in Poetry and Writing at the Univ. of Nebraska, Kearney. Hedge Coke returned to read in the International Festival of Poetry in Medellin this summer and returns to Venezuela to read in an international poetry festival later this fall.

BETH HELMS (1/03), new book, *Dervishes* (her first novel, out recently with Picador) received a very positive, starred review in Publisher's Weekly.

NORBERT HIRSCHHORN (7/94) sends this news: "Norbert Hirschhorn's *Sailing with the Pleiades*...has weight and its transcendental imagery communicates what it is to be human and in contact with the universe....This is generous poetry with metaphors that provide a key to mapping experience...his poetry is vital and energetic. Whether he is writing about Finland, trees, wolves, or a 'Toddler on the Beach' he is not merely describing what he sees but suffuses subject matter with mysticism. Every leaf is an augury, every human transcendental. These are surprising poems that explore the cycles of life, renewal and death. Paying the shipping costs to get this book from American publisher Main Street Rag is worth every extra penny." Nick Nolet (The Wolf, issue 15, summer 2007, www.wolfmagazine.co.uk).

LEANNE HOWE's (1/00) new novel, out in Sept., is titled *Miko Kings*. She gave readings from it this fall in Lexington VA, Oxford, MS, Austin, TX, Champaign, IL, Santa Fe, NM, Minneapolis, MN, and Winona, MN. *Miko Kings* is about a Choctaw baseball pitcher, his black Indian lover, an all Indian baseball team, and a Choctaw postal worker who comes back across time to tell her story to a woman who should have been her granddaughter.

MARNI JAMESON's (7/87) book *The House Always Wins* is due out in hardcover in Apr. 08 (Da Capo Books), and a year later will come out in trade paper. At that time, her second book, *The Home Stretch*, will come out in hardcover, and a year later in trade paper. Both books come from her weekly, nationally syndicated home design column, which offers a humorous look at home design – why nothing goes right at her house – along with practical

tips from people who really know what they're doing. The column is now in nearly 40 papers, and reaches over 7 million readers. The book deal is all thanks to her wonderful agent in New York, who negotiated the two-book contract with Da Capo (a Perseus imprint). Also, in a recent Publishers Weekly is a cover story PW asked her to write to introduce all home improvement books coming out in '08.

JILL JEPSON's (7/06) book, *Writing as a Sacred Path*, has been accepted by Ten Speed Press for publication in 2008. She has also founded an organization, Writing the Whirlwind, dedicated to exploring the connections between spirituality and writing. Writing the Whirlwind offers online classes and workshops, a monthly newsletter, and an opportunity to commune with others. Membership is free. Go to www.writingthewhirlwind.net.

MAGGIE KAST's (7/01) story, "So You Won't Have To," appears in the Summer/Fall '07 issue of Kaleidoscope, www.udsakron.org.

MARSHA KROLL (1/07) has been named the 2007 Bucks County Poet Laureate. She is the 31st person to win the honor in the longest-running poet laureate competition in Pennsylvania.

LISA LENARD-COOK's (7/93) fall '07 newsletter, featuring two new classes, a new book, and more, can now be found at www.lisalenardcook.com.

PAM LEWIS (1/84) is pleased to announce that her novel *Perfect Family* will be published by Simon & Schuster in Apr. '08. Her first novel, *Speak Softly, She Can Hear*, was published in '05.

PATRICIA LEE LEWIS (1/99) and **DON CHARLES WUKASCH** (7/99) were married at Patchwork Farm in Westhampton, MA on September 1. It was a beautiful day. Don is continuing his training in psychoanalysis at The C.G. Jung Institute in Boston; and February 16-23, Patricia will lead her popular writing and yoga retreat on fabled Lake Atitlan, Guatemala. Surrounded by mystical volcanoes, and in the heart of indigenous Maya culture, writers say the one week retreat, is perfect for recharging their creative selves. Then, July 12-19, she heads to Isle of Cumbrae, off Scotland's wild coast, to lead a week-long writing and yoga retreat amid sheep, sailboats and herring gulls. Details at: www.writingretreats.org

SARAH MACLAY (7/02) writes that one of her poems from *Whore* has been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Erotic Poems: 1800 to the Present*, due out in both paper and cloth from Scribner's on Valentine's Day. And her next book, *The White Bride*, will be out in early '08 (also from U of Tampa Press).

DIANE LAWSON MARTINEZ (7/07) just found out that her essay "The Road to Kotor Varos," from the Spring '06 issue of the Bellevue Literary Review, was listed in the latest Best American Travel Writing collection as a "Notable Essay."

JIM MCGARRAH (7/01), who teaches creative writing at the Univ. of Southern Indiana, is an assistant professor in the English department. An interview about his new book, *A Temporary Sort of Peace: A Memoir of Vietnam*, recently released by the Indiana Historical Society Press, can be read at <http://ihspress.blogspot.com/>

MICAELA MYERS' (1/03) second how-to book, the *Simple Solutions Guide to Trailering Your Horse*, will be released this fall from BowTie Press. Micaela left Horse Illustrated Magazine last fall and is currently the editor of Barbie Magazine and Hot Wheels Magazine--national magazines for kids. She also writes regularly for Horse Illustrated and Laguna Beach Magazine.

ROBIN OLIVEIRA (1/06) has won the James Jones Fellowship for the novel she wrote during her time in the program. Here's a link to the press release:

<http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/194.asp?item=13425>

In addition, an excerpt from the novel will be published in Provincetown Arts.

LAURA PRAH (1/07) writes that her story "Office Supplies" was accepted by The Massachusetts Review; a story she worked on at VC. No publication date yet.

BILL RASMOVICZ (1/02) writes that his "...book, *The World in Place of Itself*, is officially out, as in on the shelf, hopefully at a store near you. It's been great knowing, playing, working, and going to school with all of you--it mattered/s a lot to me, and in a thought-shaping way. So thanks...I hope you might get a chance to read it and let me know what you think."

CYNTHIA SAMPLE (7/05) was selected to participate in the summer 2007 WordSpace Literary Festival as one of four emerging Texas writers. She read two short stories: "The Prayer Diary of Doreen Newton" and "Point.Click." Readers were selected by Ben Fountain, chairman of WordSpace and winner of the Barnes & Noble Best New Writer for 2006 and the Pen/Hemingway Award for 2006. Her stories "Windows" and "The Prayer Diary of Doreen Newton" will appear in *Between the Lines* this winter, with both of these stories presented at a reading in AR on Dec. 9th.

WENDY SANFORD's (7/03) memoir piece, "Bodies," just came out in the fall issue of Narrative Magazine. It's an online journal: www.narrativemagazine.com. MFAW Faculty member Abby Frucht has a story in the same issue.

ADA JILL SCHNEIDER's (7/01) new book of poetry, *Behind the Pictures I Hang*, has just been released by Spinner Publications. It is available on amazon.com and at all major bookstores for \$13. The ISBN # is 978-0-932027-66-5. Please check out her website at: <http://web.mac.com/schneidr34>

KASSY SCRIVNER (7/07) has a piece, "My Mother and Father," featured in the latest edition of Cosmopsis Quarterly (CQ2), now available.

SHELAGH SHAPIRO's (1/03) story, "Runway," appeared in the summer '07 issue of The Baltimore Review. Her story "Space," an earlier version of which she read at VC during her final residency, has been accepted by Paper Street Press for an upcoming issue.

RICK SKOGSBERG (1/ 97) writes to say he "was fired from what he thought was his 'dream' job, because he 'can't write marketing copy.' He does, however, have two art reviews appearing in the year-end issue of Artscope, Boston's fine arts magazine."

MARCUS SMITH (7/07) received a Poetry on the Lake prize and read at their festival in Orta, Italy as well as at Winchester College in England this fall. Recent poems and reviews have and will appear in Southern Poetry Review as a contest finalist, Pleiades, Poetry Salzburg Review, Ireland's The Shop, UK's South, and Rattle. His review (favorable) of Christopher Bursk's *The First Inhabitants of*

Arcadia, in manuscript at VC's graduate program, can be accessed on Rattle.com.

PAMELA ST. CLAIR (1/07) writes that in Mar., Finishing Line Press will be publishing her poetry chapbook, *On Receiving Word*.

PARKER TOWLE's (1/89), first full-length collection of poems, *This Weather Is No Womb*, launched Nov. '07, www.AntrimHouseBooks.com. Cover blurbs by Syd Lea, Dana Grossman, Stefan Balan, and Edward Field (subject of my MFA research paper). Cover painting by Paula Wolcott, like me, from the north country of New Hampshire.

ALISON TOWNSEND (7/92) was one of seven writers to receive a literary fellowship (\$8,000) from the Wisconsin Arts Board for 2007. Her poetry chapbook, *And Still the Music*, won the 2007 Flume Press contest and will available in September from www.csuchico.edu/engl/flumepress .

CAROLYN WALKER (1/04) will have an excerpt called "Christian Becomes a Blur" from her memoir, *Circling Jennifer a Mother and Daughter Odyssey*, in the Nov. issue of Crazyhorse.

VALERIE WOHLFELD WELLS (1/83) has poems in, or forthcoming in, Ploughshares, The Antioch Review, New England Review, Southwest Review, Free Inquiry, The Wallace Stevens Journal, The Healing Muse, Cincinnati Review, North Dakota Quarterly and The Penwood Review.

JAN WESLEY (7/01) writes that her first book, *Living in Freefall*, is out and soon to be about from Main Street Rag in North Carolina.



MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

PHYLLIS BARBER has had her long-in-the-making memoir, *Raw Edges*, accepted for publication by The University of Nevada Press.

ROBIN BEHN and visual artist Mirjana Ugrinov are collaborating on a two-woman show, "Naked Writing," to open at ARC Gallery in Chicago on Feb. 6, '08. The opening reception is Friday, Feb. 8th from 6pm to 9pm. www.arcgallery.org.

ABBY FRUCHT informs us that the editors at Narrative Magazine have nominated her story "Is Glistening" for inclusion in *Best American Mystery*. Abby will be joining other authors included in the essay anthology *For Keeps* for readings at The Park Slope Bookstore in Brooklyn at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7, and at Bluestocking in Manhattan at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 8.

RIGOBERTO GONZALES' memoir, *Butterfly Boy*, received the 2007 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation.

RICHARD JACKSON's *Potovanje Sonca* (Journey of the Sun), a book of poems he translated by the Slovene poet, Aleksander Persolja, appeared from Kultruno drustvo Vilenica. He is also writing an introduction to an anthology of poems edited by VC Graduate Kelly Allan. An interview and 3 poems appeared this month in Southern Indiana Review. He read recently at U Michigan and Austin Peay Univ. and is scheduled to read at Lee Univ. and the Durango Arts Center this winter. He will chair a panel on neglected poets at AWP in New York and participate on a panel on new ways to teach creative writing, as well as participate in an international reading during AWP sponsored by Romanian poet Saviana Stanescu.

BETSY SHOLL has a book accepted for publication by Alice James Books, due out in spring '09. As of now, it's called *Rough Cradle*.

SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN's memoir, *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey Through Sexual Addiction*, is in production for a Lifetime Television original movie. It's scheduled to premiere in March and stars Sally Pressman ("Army Wives") and David James Elliott (JAG). To see photographs of the shoot, which Sue visited in Vancouver, as well as get updates, visit www.suewilliamsilverman.com. The paperback edition of *Love Sick* will be available from W. W. Norton in Feb.

LARRY SUTIN has had his novel, *When to Go into the Water*, accepted by Sarabande Press, with publication due in 2009.

LESLIE ULLMAN retired from her full-time professorship at Univ. of Texas-El Paso last year. She has spent much of the intervening time in Taos, most recently as a resident of the Wurlitzer Foundation (an artists' colony set up by Helene

Wurlitzer in the 1930's). Among other things, she is now available to do freelance manuscript consultation and can be contacted at her regular e-mail (lullman@utep.edu) and address.

ROGER WEINGARTEN will be teaching, reading, and lecturing at the 13th Annual Vermont College Postgraduate Writers' Conference, Aug. 8-14, 2008 (<http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/>). He'll also be teaching and reading at the Prague Writing Seminars, July 14-25. He co-edited, with MFA grad Andrey Gritsman, *Stranger at Home: American Poetry with an Accent*, that will be published sometime in 2008 by Talisman.

NANCE VAN WINCKEL's new volume of poetry, *No Starling*, has been released. To find it on Amazon, see the link below:

http://www.amazon.com/No-Starling-Pacific-Northwest-Poetry/dp/0295987367/ref=sr_1_1/104-3902525-0855161?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1185386144&sr=1-1

DAVID WOJAHN recently was informed that *Interrogation Palace* was the runner up for the Academy of American Poets' \$25,000 Lenore Marshall Prize, which is awarded to a book of poetry published the previous calendar year. The winner was Alice Notley. David also received a writing fellowship in poetry from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

XU XI writes that her novel manuscript *Habit Of A Foreign Sky* was short listed for the 2007 inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize (winner to be announced Nov. 10 in a ceremony in Hong Kong). Her story collection *Access* was a semifinalist for the 2007 Mary MacCarthy Prize in Short Fiction. *Evanescent Isles* (essay collection) will be published by the Hong Kong Univ. Press, May '08; *Fifty Fifty*, ed. (anthology) will be published by Haven Books, Spring '08. Individual publications include (fiction): "To Body To Chicken" (story) will appear in Silk Road, Spring '08; "Lady Day" (story) will be serialized as 3 monthly installments and translated into Chinese to be published bi-lingually in Muse, beginning with the Dec., '07 issue; "The Fourth Copy" (story) will be translated into Italian for publication in the anthology, *Migramondo*, Marotta & Cafiero, Naples, '07/'08 (forthcoming); "Available" (story) appeared in the Saranac Review,

Fall '07 issue. Nonfiction includes: "Global English in Contemporary Asian Fiction" will appear in *Imagining Globalization*, ed. Ho Hon Leung, Palgrave MacMillan, '08; "At Home in a Globalized Life" will appear in the *Asian Literary Review*, Dec. '07; a commissioned series of personal travel essays, "Letters from" continually appear in *Muse*, '07/'08, including letters from NYC (airports), Vermont, Macau, Ubud (Bali), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Iowa, Stockholm, Helsinki, Oregon. Appearances include: (readings & panels) AWP Annual Conference, NYC -- panel chair "Rhythms in Prose"; Pacific Univ. MFA Program, Seaside, OR -- guest writer, Jan. '08, '07; Inaugural Man Asian Literary Prize -- shortlist reading event, Hong Kong Nov. '07; NonFiction Now! annual conference -- panelist "Travel Writing: To Simmer or not To Simmer" Oct./Nov. '07; British Council Book Panel, Hong Kong -- moderator of panel featuring two British authors, Oct. '07; Ubud, Bali Readers & Writers Festival -- guest writer, Sept. '07. Been busy!



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