

# MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE  
Union Institute & University

NEWSLETTER

May, 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults alumna Laura Greene writes: "At the July residency the VC-MFA WC&YA Alumni Scholarship will be \$500, with the awardee being chosen by the faculty from among the 2nd and 3rd term students. So far three awards have been made at \$250 dollars each. Please consider making a donation in honor of the 10th Anniversary--especially those of you who have published as a result of your study at Vermont College, and not yet contributed. **We depend on your generosity!** The value of the fund is about \$27,000 and we need more so we can give away more. Please be generous." For more information contact: [lauragr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lauragr@sbcglobal.net).

**Hunger Mountain** News: Don't forget the deadline for the **Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize** is June 1<sup>st</sup> (extended from 5/10). The first annual **Hunger Mountain Creative Nonfiction Prize** is Sept. 1. Please help us promote the prizes, if you can, through blogs, websites, chatrooms, etc. and, perhaps, provide a link to *Hunger Mountain's* website. Our **Spring 2008 issue** is just out which includes the winter of the Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry as well as an interview with Robert Boswell and lots of great work. **Please subscribe and/or donate to Hunger Mountain if you can; as always, we need your support.** [www.hungermtn.org](http://www.hungermtn.org)

Be sure to check out the following article by Abby Frucht on the National Book Critics Circle blog, Critical Mass, which includes commentary by a number of our students and alumni.  
<http://bookcriticscircle.blogspot.com/>

Issue 6 of Independent zine, The Gut, edited by Vermont College graduate student Zack Kopp (Denver) and Vermont College alumnus Andrew Wible (Woodstock, NY), ETA late May-early June, will feature an interview with former Yippie, Merry Prankster, investigate satirist and noted counter-cultural icon Paul Krassner. This is the first of a planned series of interviews with notable people. We are an irregular journal of quantum thought accepting submissions of poetry, short prose, art, photography, journalism, comedy, etc. at [Thegutzine@yahoo.com](mailto:Thegutzine@yahoo.com) This is a non-paying gig so far, but we're picking up steam, and your donations toward furthering The Gut are welcome at 65 Ogden #1 Denver, CO 80218

## CONTESTS

**THE 2007 JUKED FICTION AND POETRY PRIZES**, now accepting entries! The winner in each genre receives \$500 and publication in our upcoming print issue, *juked #5*. Final judges: Frederick Barthelme (fiction) and Julia Johnson (poetry). Submission deadline: Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007; entry fee: \$10. Fiction: one story per entry, no length requirement; Poetry: up to five poems (no more than ten pages total) per entry. Complete guidelines at: <http://www.juked.com/prize/>

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## MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

**ERIC ANDERSON**'s novella, *Isn't That Just Like You?* has just been published by Cleveland State Univ.'s Poetry Center. That's right; prose from a poetry center.

**JON CONE** appears in the recently published four-poet anthology *All Roads ...But This One*, published by Luddite Kingdom Press. (Information available at [www.all-roads.com](http://www.all-roads.com)). In addition, new poems appear in the on-line journals Elimae, and are forthcoming in Eratio.

**JEWEL DAVIS**' piece, "God Wears a Headset" will appear in the 2007 Summer Solstice edition of Cezanne; 1/2s Carrot ([www.cezannescarrot.org](http://www.cezannescarrot.org)) and may go into a published anthology in the future. Many of you know this piece as the "Ogunquit Box Office" story or "A Caged Bird with a Headset". Her creative nonfiction piece, "The Magic Number" will be published in the June issue of Moondance Literary Magazine ([www.moondance.org](http://www.moondance.org)). Jewel also writes that her story, "The Revenge of the Christ-Killer" will be published by Compass Rose Journal of Art and Literature, connected to Chester College. It will be in the Spring 2007 issue:  
<http://www.chestercollege.edu/compassrose/spring2007>

**ANNIE DOWNEY** writes that she was on a book tour with Ariel Gore (Founder/Editor of Hip Mama) and China Doll Martinez in a "Crazy Dreams and Ideals Booktour: Mama Writes a Novel" with her debut novel *Hot and Bothered* (Algonquin Books) from Apr. 21-29, from NYC to Chapel Hill, NC. See [anniedowney.com](http://anniedowney.com) for more info.

**HOLLY JONES**' second article for Washington, DC's Hill Rag and East of the River papers is coming out June 1st. Her first article, published last Nov., focused on the pollution of the Anacostia River and the second will focus on the youth volunteers working to clean the river.

**WILL VAN DORP** wrote and directed a one-act play, "Mending Wall to Building Bridges." Performances were Feb. 28 and Mar. 28 at Union County College in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

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## MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

**SHAINDEL BEERS**' (1/05) has two poems, "Belonging" and "My Love, a Partial Explanation," in the current issue of The Apple Valley Review ([www.applevalleyreview.com](http://www.applevalleyreview.com)). Irish writer Grace Wells discusses Shaindel's poetry in the current issue of Contrary ([www.contrarymagazine.com](http://www.contrarymagazine.com)), and she has a short story, "Snake," at Projected Letters ([www.projectedletters.com](http://www.projectedletters.com)). Also, her poem "Rewind" beat about 400 poems from about 250-300 poets from almost every state and most continents to win 1st place in the Dylan Days Festival, honoring Bob Dylan, in Hibbing, MN. The contest's chief poetry judge mentioned how she enjoyed Beers' contrast of the simple, identifiable image of a film projector rewinding with large issues of humanity. She also has a short story, "Longing on Hwy 10," forthcoming in the online version of Compass Rose, which will be available at <http://compassrosemagazine.blogspot.com>.

**NANCY BOWDEN** (7/90) reports: "After 13 years away from creative work, I started writing again in 2004 and since then, essays and fiction have appeared in the anthology Life Writing By Kentucky Feminists, and in the journals Under The Sun, the strange fruit, The Coe Review, and ACM. New work is forthcoming in The Gihon River Review, and a book, *That Precarious Gait: Essays and Stories* will be published by Fleur-de-Lis Press in '08-'09. Published work appears under the name Nancy Jensen. I'm mid-way through the draft of a novel, tentatively titled *Tread Softly*. I've recently added a Lab-mix puppy, Gordy, to my enormous family of cats. Gordy has just finished obedience training and is now working on becoming a therapy dog."

**RANDALL BROWN** (7/06) has work appearing or forthcoming in Connecticut Review, The Saint Ann's Review, Cairn, Hunger Mountain, Vestal Review, Boston Literary Magazine, and others, including the anthologies *The Best of Philadelphia Stories*, *Laugh It Off Annual*, *Very Short Fiction 2006*, and *Best of the Skive Story Prize*. He presented flash fiction workshops, along with Anchee Min and others, at the Highland Park Literary Festival and continues to serve on the editorial staff of SmokeLong Quarterly ([www.smokelong.com](http://www.smokelong.com)). Also, Philadelphia's InterAct Theatre will be presenting his work in Apr. as part of their Writing Aloud series.

**WALTER BUTTS** (1/95) has been nominated for a second Pushcart Prize, by Cider Press Review. His poem, "Against Happiness" is forthcoming in Poetry East's issue on Bliss, and he has work featured in *Leaves by Night, Flowers by Day*, the 2006 Iowa Source Poetry anthology. His full-length collection, *Sunday Evening at the Stardust Café* (1<sup>st</sup> World) and a chapbook, *Sunday Factory* (Finishing Line Press) are available on amazon.com.

**MICHELLE DEMERS** (1/03) has won a chapbook competition from Blue Light Press. Her chapbook, *Epicenter*, is due out in Summer '07. She has also had a poem recently published in the 2006 Iowa Poetry Source anthology called *Leaves by Night, Flowers by Day*. Either book can be ordered by contacting her at: michelle.demers@verizon.net.

**BILL DUVALL** (1/05) will be Featured Poet for the online journal contemporaryamericanvoices in the Dec. issue. **GBANOBOM ELVIS HALLOWELL** (1/05) will have poems in that same issue.

**HARRISON FLETCHER**'s (7/06) essay "The Beautiful City of Tirzah" has just been selected for publication in the forthcoming *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*, put out by Simon & Schuster and compiled by Lex Williford and Michael Martone.

**AUDREY FRIEDMAN** (1/05) 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!" Also, Audrey recently heard that she was to be the recipient of a Teacher-of-the-Year Award from the RI Holocaust Museum. They annually choose one RI teacher who has made an outstanding contribution teaching today's youth about the Holocaust. 79 of her students entered their Holocaust Art/Poetry projects to a student competition sponsored by the museum, and all 79 are being presented with awards because the board couldn't choose one."

**BETTYE GIVENS** (8/83) won a PEN Texas Award for her play, "Signed, Sealed & Delivered". She was

invited to receive her award at a reception in Dallas May 5, 2007.

**PATSY GLENN** (7/00) has written a play that was recently in Birmingham, before hitting the road to Nashville, Atlanta, and beyond. It's part of the Politically Incorrect Cabaret, and is a satire about corporate corruption. She is also writing for a newspaper.

**JEN GROW**'s (1/01) story, "What Girl's Leave Behind" appears in Other Voices 46, Spring/Summer '07 issue.

**ELOISE KLEIN HEALY** (7/88) has a new collection of poems out from Red Hen Press, *The Islands Project: Poems For Sappho*. She also has her own imprint with Red Hen, Arktoi Books. For information about the imprint and submission guidelines, visit [www.redhen.org/arktoi.asp](http://www.redhen.org/arktoi.asp) Healy chaired a panel at AWP on lesbian poets called "The Singing School: Lesbian Foremother Poets."

**MAGGIE KAST**'s (7/01) "Liberal Catholicism," a memoir excerpt, is out in the April 30 issue of *America* [www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org). "The Crack Between the Worlds," a memoir excerpt published in ACM (Another Chicago Magazine) received a Literary Award from the Illinois Arts Council. The latter are given jointly to writer and magazine "for publication of quality new writing by Illinois writers in Illinois not-for-profit literary magazines."

**ANN KILLOUGH**'s (7/02) *Beloved Idea* is one of the winners of the Kinereth Gensler Award from Alice James Books. It will be published in Nov. 2007.

**KATIE KINGSTON** (1/93) was awarded the fourth annual Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry for her poem "What Does Lorca Own?" Her collection of poems, *Habitat*, was selected as a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award 2007 competition. She has poems forthcoming in Hunger Mountain, Isotope, White Ink, and Words and Images.

**JOAN LEEGANT** (7/99) will be the Visiting Writer for the Fall 2007 semester in the Creative Writing Program at Bar – Ilan Univ. in Tel Aviv, Israel. Previous Visiting Writers include Steve Stern, Jonathan Wilson, and Bret Lott. While there, she will have the opportunity to spend time with fellow VC

grad, Evan Fallenberg, who's lived in Israel for many years.

**LISA LENARD-COOK's** (7/93) second novel, *Coyote Morning* (UNM Press), was short-listed for the New Mexico Press Women's Zia Award. An interview with Lisa appears in the Apr. online edition of The Writer magazine. Lisa is a faculty member of the Santa Barbara Writers' Conference ([www.sbwritersconference.com](http://www.sbwritersconference.com)) in June, and also teaches through Vermont College's Lifelong Learning program. In addition, she continues to write her monthly column about fiction writing for [www.authorlink.com](http://www.authorlink.com), and her book about writing fiction, *The Mind of Your Story*, will be published by Writers Digest Books in Apr. '08. A reading of the first act of a play based on her first novel *Dissonance* (UNM Press) will take place at the FUSION Theatre in Albuquerque in June. Lisa reviews books for the Weekly Alibi, and is happy to consider for review books of interest to writers in the Desert Southwest, as well as those by authors who will be appearing in Albuquerque or Santa Fe. To contact Lisa, please visit her website [www.lisalenardcook.com](http://www.lisalenardcook.com)

**KINNEY LITTLEFIELD's** (7/05) short story, "Bread," was published in Cairn 42, the Spring 2007 issue (should be out in late Apr.-May). Her creative nonfiction essay, "Confessions of an Island Dog-Sitter," will be published in Talking River in the coming year.

**JIM MCGARRAH** (7/01) can be reached through [mcgarra48@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgarra48@yahoo.com) or through his website [www.jimmcgarrahlive.com](http://www.jimmcgarrahlive.com) - please stay in touch. Also, he has a new novel just released (*Going Postal*) and available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon, among others and his nonfiction memoir about his experiences in Vietnam will be released in July (*A Temporary Sort of Peace*).

**ELEANOR MORSE** (formerly SEAGER) (7/92) has a novel, *An Unexpected Forest*, out through Down East Books, as of Apr. 2007. The book begins when one of the main characters is fired from a job as a lawyer at a large hospital in Conn. and comes home to find that there's been a mistaken delivery of 1,000 *Picea Mariana* (black spruce) seedlings to his suburban home. He's not an outdoorsy guy, but he unexpectedly falls in love with the trees and sets out to plant them in northern Maine. In the process, he

and his wife connect with an ex-con and his girlfriend, a relationship that changes all four people in ways they couldn't have predicted. Eleanor has taught writing courses to men and women in Maine prisons through a grant from the Maine Humanities Council and recently spent five months in Dharamsala, India with John Wetterau, also a writer, who attended a semester at the Vermont College MFA program. They live on Peaks Island, off the coast of Portland, Maine. e-mail: [eleanor.morse@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.morse@gmail.com).

**MICAELA MYERS'** (1/03) short story "The Lies I Told You" appears in Issue 16 of Perigee ([www.perigee-art.com](http://www.perigee-art.com)).

**CHIVAS SANDAGE** (1/06) founded *Soulforce Press* and published the Hampshire Heights Review / vol. 1, a journal of writing and photography by at-risk residents of low-income public housing (by the same name) in Northampton, Mass. She has just received another grant in support of the next issue and her writing workshops that produce the journal.

**SHELAGH SHAPIRO's** (1/03) story, "Alike," has been accepted by the journal Jewish Currents. She has been teaching classes in Short Story Writing and Finding Inspiration for Burlington City Arts and local recreation programs in and around Burlington, VT. She's at work on a new collection of linked stories.

**JOAN SELIGER SIDNEY** (7/89) had a poem published in Caduceus, and read from *Body Of Diminishing Motion: Poems And A Memoir* (CavanKerry) at Avol's in Madison WI and at the Univ. of Connecticut's Holocaust Convocation. She continues to facilitate Writing for Your Life, an adult writing workshop, and to work as Writer-in-Residence at UConn's Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life.

**CURTIS SMITH's** (7/96) stories and essays have appeared in over fifty literary journals, including the current issues of Greensboro Review, Bellingham Review, Hobart, Avery, Red Cedar Review, and Turnrow. His new book, *The Species Crown*, a collection of stories and a novella, is available now as a preorder from Press 53 ([www.press53.com](http://www.press53.com)). It will be released in June. He will be doing a number of readings over the summer – "come say hello if you're in the neighborhood."

## MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

**ANTHONY SNIDER** (7/06) won first place in the Bridport competition for his poem "Panegyric" and was a finalist in the Comstock Review's contest for "Furniture."

**KAREN TAYLOR**'s (7/05) creative nonfiction piece "The Space Between Lucidity and Madness" will be published in upstreet, June '07. The piece was originally entitled "Aunt Evelyn".

**BG THURSTON** (1/02) writes in that her poetry chapbook, *Saving the Lamb*, is coming out this spring from Finishing Line Press. There will be a celebratory book signing party after its release. However the press run will be determined by advance sales of the book, so if you'd like to order a copy before Apr. 18th, shipping is FREE. There is an order form below or you can order online using your credit card. Books will be shipped after May 18th. Please visit Finishing Line Press's online bookstore at <http://www.finishinglinepress.com/> and go to "New Releases." If you received a postcard and have already ordered your copy, she sends her sincere thanks.

**TONY VAN WITSEN**'s (1/04) short story "The Public's Right To Know," will come out this week in Square One, the litmag at the Univ. of Colorado. He was invited to give a reading at the pub party but had to turn it down because he will be in Chicago at the "Lip Reading" series sponsored by [www.poetrycenter.org](http://www.poetrycenter.org).

**STEVE YOUNG** (7/97) won a 2007 duPont-Columbia Award for Excellence in Journalism (considered the Pulitzer of broadcast journalism) for an investigative series on hidden poverty on Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

**PAULA YUP** (8/83) had "181 Were Picasso" accepted by Earth's Daughters for their "Once Upon a Time and Games Issue" and Wavelength plans to publish "A Day in China" and "A Year Later" in the Summer '08 issue.

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**DOUGLAS GLOVER** recently returned from Toronto where he was awarded the Writers' Trust of Canada Timothy Findley Award for a writer in mid-career Here is the website.

[http://www.writerstrust.com/programs\\_apa\\_timothyfindley.html](http://www.writerstrust.com/programs_apa_timothyfindley.html) If you scroll down a bit you'll see "2006 Winner" and if you click on that the announcement about Douglas comes up.

**DIANE LEFER**'s collection, *California Transit*, which was awarded the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, was published by Sarabande Books on Apr. 1. She will be reading from it at Orca Books in Olympia, WA on May 4 at 7:00 PM, at Powell's in Portland on May 7 at 7:30, Vroman's in Pasadena, CA on May 14 at 7:00, and Dutton's Brentwood on June 4th. As a City of Los Angeles literary fellow, she will be presenting new work at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood along with Luis Rodriguez and Hector Aristizabal on Sunday, May 27 at 4:00. Her play, *Majikan*, will be produced at an outdoor theatre in NYC this June by Ciona Taylor Productions. Diane is now contributing personal essays to the LA Free Press, the first underground newspaper of the Sixties, founded by counterculture legend Art Kunkin who has recently emerged from the desert to revive the publication.

**SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN**'s essay "See the Difference?" has been accepted for an upcoming anthology published by Creative Nonfiction. She will be teaching at the Kachemak Bay Writers Conference in Homer, Alaska, June 8-12. Please visit <http://writersconference.homer.alaska.edu/> for more information. She'll also be teaching in Vermont College's Postgraduate Writers conference Aug. 8-14.

**DAVID WOJAHN** was recently selected as a 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist for his collection of poems, *Interrogation Palace: New & Selected Poems 1982-2004* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006). *Poetry Magazine* calls *Interrogation Palace* "superb... powerful, panoramic," written with "as much formal and emotional strength as any poet alive." The collection is a combination of work from Wojahn's five previous books of poetry and his more current work, with themes ranging from rock n' roll history to the loss of family, from ancient villains to present politics.

**XU XI** appeared at the 2007 Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival in Mar., as a panelist speaking on Hong Kong 10 years after the handover, participated as a moderator for a panel featuring two Chinese women writers, and was a featured writer in a session honoring Chinese women writers, also in March. More information at <http://www.festival.org.hk/2007/index.php>. She was a featured writer and led an introductory fiction workshop at the first Beijing International Literary Festival on March 26 & 27. Also, Authors-at-Large, a venture she co-founded with Robin Hemley, will lead its first group to Hong Kong & Macau in May.

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

**GWENDA BOND** reviewed four titles for the Washington Post Book World science fiction and fantasy column in Feb. and wrote the Publishers Weekly cover story for the May 7 issue ("Seriously Gay and Lesbian"). She has also been selected as jury chair for the 2007 James Tiptree, Jr. Award, which honors works of speculative literature that explore or expand gender roles.

**MICOL OSTOW** writes: "I'm pleased to report that I've sold my latest book project: *I'm With the Tribe: A Guy, A Guitar, and a Date with (Non-Denominational) Destiny* to Flux/Llewellyn. It's a graphic novel hybrid format, and my brother, David Ostow, will be illustrating. Tentative pub date of Fall '08."

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

**ANNA MARIE BLACK** (1/99) is writing curriculum guides Preschool through Grade 12 for the annual Creative Festivals sponsored by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The guides are distributed nationally with internet exposure. Anna Marie has been assigned these projects annually since 2001. Among her duties as librarian in Youth Services at Chester County Library, Exton, PA, Anna Marie assisted poet Elizabeth Hanley with "Adventures in Poetry," a writing workshop for youngsters ages eight through

eleven years. Anna Marie and Elizabeth (a library colleague) presented a variety of poetic forms for study during five sessions. The children held a formal reading of their work on May 16. A collection of the children's work is being published under a local poetry imprint. Anna Marie attended the SCBWI national conference in New York City in Feb. and the SCBWI Eastern PA Regional Pocono Mountains Retreat in Apr.

**BRUCE BLACK** (1/99) had two stories appear in Cricket Magazine: "A Night of Questions" (Apr. '07) and "XXXs and OOs" (Dec. '06). Another story, "Salt Air," was published in the premiere issue of Touch Magazine, a journal devoted to healing and the arts, produced by the UMKC School of Medicine. Bruce continues to share thoughts on the writing process at his blog, Wordswimmer (<http://wordswimmer.blogspot.com/>), where you can find interviews with VC staff and alums, book reviews, chats on craft, and lots more.

**BETHANY DELLINGER** (1/04) and her husband Sedrick announce the birth of their second child, a baby girl - Avila Rose Dellinger on Mar. 27, 2007. Avila was accommodating enough to wait until Bethany finished a MAJOR overhaul of the YA novel she began writing while earning her degree from VC. Bethany is currently seeking an agent and a publisher.

**PHYLLIS HARRIS** (7/00) has poems, "Children's Museum," "...7,8 lay them straight," and "Separate Conventions" in ICON, Kent Sate Univ., Spring 2007.

**LYNN E. HAZEN** (7/04) is very happy to announce the sale of *Shifty*, her YA novel, to Tricycle Press. *Shifty* was Lynn's creative thesis. It's slated for Fall '08 publication. [www.lynnhazen.com](http://www.lynnhazen.com)

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

