

MFA Program Finds New Home

Leaving behind the dim hallways, noisy seminar room and strange smells of Columbia Hall, where it spent its last decades, the Creative Writing Program moved into its new home at the corner of 15th and Alder Streets.

The Alder Building, built in 1947 as a sorority house for Zeta Tau Alpha and then used as Pi Kappa Alpha's fraternity house from 1979 until recently, is a large white Greek-revival-style building with high ceilings, large offices, two fireplaces, lots of sunlight, and plenty of working space.

Faculty offices are congenially clustered together on the south wing of the second floor, and the new site also has a large seminar room on the first floor, where workshops, seminars, and other Program events will be held. Already this year the new space has hosted Richard Bausch and Richard Tillinghast for their Kidd Tutorial Talks, the final Kidd Tutorial Reading, part two of this year's graduate reading, and the commencement ceremony. There is also a student reading and conference area just outside the Kidd program offices.



Photo by Jack Liu

"Alder Building is a sunny, quiet, gracious home for the Program, a comfortable and welcoming building, where our writers can work and meet," said Program Director Karen Ford. "We're grateful that the new

dean, Scott Coltrane, offered us this splendid space."

The Creative Writing Program shares Alder Building with *The Oregon Quarterly* magazine, Design and Editing Services, and UO Summer Session. •

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Photo by Jack Liu

From l. to r.: Karen Ford, Program Director, and Creative Writing faculty members David Bradley, Geri Doran, Garrett Hongo, Laurie Lynn Drummond, and Cai Emmons (Not pictured: Ehud Havazelet)

MFA Faculty News

David Bradley's "That Ain't Jazz" won a *Narrative Magazine* Winter Award and was published in *Narrative* this summer. "Beyond Chagrin" was published in *Brevity 29* this year; "The Ever Evolving Malcolm X" was published in *Obit* in May; and "1965: Grove Press Publishes the Autobiography of Malcolm X" will be published in *New Literary History of America*, forthcoming from Harvard University Press.

Geri Doran's poems recently appeared in *The New Republic* and *TriQuarterly* and are forthcoming in *Image*, *Southern Review*, and *Ninth Letter*. Her new manuscript, called *Sanderlings*, was runner-up for the 2009 Dorset Prize; a group of poems from the manuscript was a finalist for the Robert H. Winner Award from the Poetry Society of America.

Laurie Lynn Drummond received the Leslie Bradshaw Fellowship for nonfiction from Oregon Literary Arts. This summer she is teaching fiction and creative nonfiction workshops at the Katchemak Bay Writers Conference in Alaska. In the fall, her story, "Keeping the Dead Alive" will be published in a special

issue, *The Best of LSU Writers*, by *The Southern Review*.

Cai Emmons finished her third novel, *The Seventh Tenet*, and was awarded a summer fellowship at The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She also served on the Lane Arts Council Grants Panel and has been appointed to the board of directors of The Lord Leebrick Theater Company.

Ehud Havazelet's *Bearing The Body* won the 2008 Oregon Book Award for the novel and the Edgar Lewis Wallant Award. Picador USA released *Bearing the Body* in paperback, along with Dutch, French and Italian translations. Hebrew, German and Romanian editions are forthcoming. Other publications include stories in *Ploughshares* and *Tin House*, an interview for an Italian website on the release of the novel in Italy, and a piece in the *New York Times Magazine* "Lives" section. Havazelet also received a 2009 Faculty Fund for Excellence Award from the University of Oregon and was promoted to full professor.

Garrett Hongo recently had poems published in *Harvard Review*, *Raritan*, and *Poetry Northwest*. He was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and included in *Best American Poetry 2008*. •

In Memoriam

James D. Houston

James D. Houston, who captured the promise, the harshness and the sheer beauty of California in novels like *Continental Drift* and *Snow Mountain Passage* and in works like *Farewell to Manzanar*, about a World War II internment camp for the Japanese, died this year. He was 75.

Houston lived his entire life in California, most of it in Santa Cruz. The state provided the setting for nearly all his novels and the material for the nonfiction work *Californians: Searching for the Golden State*.

In 1995, Houston taught at the University of Oregon's Creative Writing Program. Distinguished Professor Garrett Hongo said, "Jim was a great friend to the Program, to me and to Ehud, and one of the kindest 'men in my life,' to borrow the title from one of his books. At the time of his death, he was working on a novel about Lilioukalani, Hawai'i's last queen. With his widow, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, he co-authored *Farewell to Manzanar*, perhaps the finest book of historical fiction regarding the internment experience of Japanese Americans." •

Literary Reference

Literary Reference, the newsletter of the Creative Writing Program, is published quarterly in conjunction with the University of Oregon Office of Publications.

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Doran Named Assistant Professor

Geri Doran, who has served the last two years as a visiting writer, has this year been hired to a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Poetry.

Doran earned her AB at Vassar College and an MFA from the University of Florida. She is the author of *Resin* (Louisiana State University Press, 2005), which was awarded the 2004 Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets. Her poems have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *New England Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, *32 Poems*, and other journals.

A former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, she is also the recipient of the 2005-2006 Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship as well as fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, Literary Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Millay Colony for the Arts.

This academic year, Doran will teach the MFA Poetry Workshop: "Passionate Syntax" fall term 2009 and "The Modern Poet-Critic" Poetry Seminar in spring 2010. •



Photo by Robert Buelteman

MFA Graduate News

Don Bodey's ('75) *F.N.G., Revised Edition*, was published by Modern History Press in 2008.

Kerry Cohen's ('96) memoir *Loose Girl: A Memoir of Promiscuity*, the story of a girlhood addicted to male attention, was published by Hyperion.

Elyse Fenton ('07) received The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry given by Nimrod International Journal. She won Cleveland State University's First Book prize, judged by D.A. Powell, and her poetry manuscript, "Clamor," will be published in spring 2010. Fenton's essay "My Deployment as a War Bride" appeared in the Modern Love section of Sunday's *NY Times* in August 2008.

Will Fleming's ('08) essay "Just Wait and See" was published in the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of *The Santa Clara Review*.

Jennifer Kepka's ('08) essay "Windmills, Talking" has been selected for inclusion in the Penguin Classics/Union of Concerned Scientists anthology, *Thoreau's Legacy*.

Philip Memmer's ('95) second book of poems, *Threat of Pleasure*, was published in June 2008 by Word Press. His third, "Lucifer: A Hagiography," was just awarded the Idaho Prize and was published by Lost Horse Press in February 2009.

Matthew Rader ('08) has been awarded a British Columbia Arts Council grant to complete a third manuscript of poems; published a selection of poems in two Irish anthologies, *The Echoing Years*, and *How The Light Gets In*; published a limited edition, subscription only, fine press book of poems called *Reservations*; has done readings in Newfoundland, Toronto, and Ottawa, and will be appearing at the Denman Island Writers Festival this summer; and has taken a permanent

2009 Commencement



Back from l. to r.: Claire Whitenack, Sara Keilholtz, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Arlo Voorhees, Anna Drexler
Front from l. to r.: Kärstin Painter, Leslie Barnard, Daphne Stanford, Brenden Willey

Photo by Jack Liu

Hosted in the Alder Building's seminar room, this year's MFA Commencement was another happy and fascinating occasion, "two days when we all come together for the best of our students' fiction and poetry," said Director Karen Ford.

"I love hearing the emotional freight carried by a detail like whether a son's sandwich is made with or without mayo in Leslie's "Hero" and the mix of youthful hope and cynicism in the last scene when Dan tackles Justice and she laughs and says, 'You think you saved me?' Such misguided adolescent heroism surfaces again in Brenden's "Far Woods" where the observation that Nathan 'watched the gaps between the boards' of the barn so aptly describes the boy's only partial seeing and understanding.

I thought we had a 2009 Failed Fishing Trips theme going after the first two readings, but Arlo stayed closer to home, though one of his speakers acknowledges that he 'can't reenter the barn.' Arlo's love/hate relationship with the pastoral echoes in his rhythmic/dissonant prosody, and I hear something more compelling than either nostalgia or subversion in how the past and present reside together in lines like 'strangers naming obsolete things' and 'our stubborn pursuit of happiness.'

Anna's ironically titled "Reunion" depicts a character so organized I wanted

to hire her; she shows how little ordering dessert recipes can do to control the emotional chaos of a mother who must settle for being connected to her daughter through the creaks and groans of the house she moves about in, who is so damaged herself that she savors 'the sting of her daughter's cheek still warm in her hand' after slapping her. The vacancy at the heart of Brenden's Ben, 'I don't care what you do. That about summed Ben up these days,' is akin to that in Karstin's Lila, who insists, after the death of another baby, 'I am not sad; I am nothing.'

"If there were a second 2009 MFA reading theme, it might be obsessive organizers, Claire's Linnaeus the king of them all. I was swept into her poetry with 'there is a kind of self that wants the sea,' kept there by the intense, attentive language of her visionaries and creatures, let out of it, gorgeously, with Linnaeus on his deathbed asking 'What hand hasn't tried to grip the sea?' Daphne's poem about her hoarder mother's disorganized organization—'one day I finish this mess / all this be yours'—articulates a paradoxical inheritance of confusion and clarity that is also expressed in the way her poems move from orthodox to unorthodox language, from sentence to fragment.

COMENCEMENT—Continued from page 3

Sara's Myrtle categorizes ailments with Linnaean precision (while her mother organizes files), and though she is the one 'born to be cured' in the tree house next door, she knows that 'things only get worse,' that 'neither of us could keep pretending.' And Kirsten's Amadeo goes at his Passion Week duties with the same obsessive devotion, like all these characters, hoping that such responsibility and virtue will make him 'worth a darn.'"

Director Karen Ford closed by saying, "I want to thank you for the talent, energy, commitment, and community you've brought to the program these last few years." •

2009 Kidd Prize Winners

The winners were announced on May 21, 2009, at the Creative Writing Program's Reading Series event featuring Richard Tillinghast.

Poetry Judge: Richard Tillinghast

- Anna Nakano-Baker, "Claire Came Home for New Year's," 1st prize
- Nick Bernard, "The Arborist," 2nd prize

- Ross Concillo, "Waiting for the Bus at Night," 3rd prize

Fiction Judge: Richard Bausch

- Kevin Armstrong, "Camping with Patsy Cline," 1st prize
- Christopher Bradley, "Another Time Capsule," 2nd prize
- Kurt Spickerman, "Something Like Happiness," 3rd prize •



From l. to r.: Kevin Armstrong, Nick Bernard, Christopher Bradley, and Kurt Spickerman. (Not pictured: Anna Nakano-Baker and Ross Concillo.)

Johnson Awarded Provincetown Fellowship



Sara Johnson (poetry '09) has been awarded a 2009-2010 Provincetown Fine Arts Center fellowship.

The Fine Arts Work Center offers a unique residency for writers and visual artists in the crucial early stages of their careers. Located in Provincetown, Massachusetts, an area with a long history as an arts colony, the Work Center provides seven-month fellowships to twenty fellows each year in the form of living/work space and a monthly stipend. Residencies run from October through May, and fellows have the opportunity to pursue their work independently in a diverse and supportive community. An historic fishing port, Provincetown is situated at the tip of Cape Cod in an area of spectacular natural beauty, surrounded by miles of dunes and National Seashore beaches.

Sara earned her BA in English at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and she has just received her MFA in Poetry from the University of Oregon. •

Creative Writing Students Sweep Stegner Awards

Kirstin Valdez Quade, fiction writer and 2009 MFA graduate, and Keetje Kuipers, poetry writer and UO MFA graduate of 2005, have been named 2009-2010 Wallace Stegner Fellows. Among the most prestigious and significant awards offered to aspiring writers in the United States, the two-year Stegner Fellowship carries a \$26,000 annual living stipend.

Poet, English Professor, and Program Director Eavan Boland observed that "The hardest thing to do in any society is to buy time for young artists. But the future of the arts is invested in that time." She said many of the Stegner Fellows have the beginnings of a first book, and the program provides them time to finish it.

Kirstin Valdez Quade is from northern New Mexico. She earned her BA at Stanford and has just completed her MFA. Her story "Den Mother" won the 2008 AWP Intro Journals prize and appeared in the *Colorado Review*. She is at present working on a col-

lection of short stories set in New Mexico. One of Kirstin's stories, "The Five Wounds," appeared in the July 27th edition of *The New Yorker*.

Keetje Kuipers is a native of the Northwest. She earned her BA at Swarthmore College and her MFA at the University of Oregon. In 2007 Kuipers was the Margery Davis Boyden Wilderness Writing Resident. She used the residency to complete work on her book, *Beautiful in the Mouth*, which was awarded the 2009 A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize and will be published by BOA Editions. in April 2010. •



Peñaloza Takes Starlin Prize

Michelle Peñaloza (poetry '10) is the recipient of this year's Miriam McFall Starlin Poetry Award.

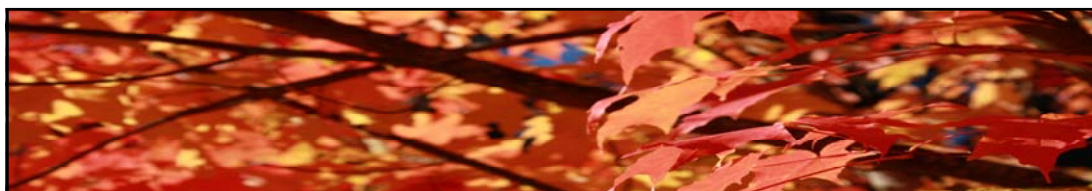
"I'm thrilled and exceedingly grateful to have been awarded the Starlin prize," Peñaloza said.

The award, established in 1997 by the late Glenn Starlin, professor emeritus in theater and telecommunications, as a surprise gift to his wife Miriam on her 80th birthday, is designed to honor a promising graduate student of poetry in the University of Oregon's Creative Writing Program. Miriam Starlin, a poet herself, has had a life-long dedication to writing poetry and, along with her husband, has encouraged and supported poetry in the Eugene community and at the University of Oregon.

Peñaloza earned her B.A. in English and Secondary Education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and for three years she taught at a boarding school in Philadelphia before becoming an MFA candidate in poetry at the University of Oregon. •

Family *Kundiman*

Song crossed our threshold after the war—
Face veiled, body battered—carried by our Tatay.
Her stewards followed, *ang Hapón ibinigay*:
Three wounded pianos, their soundboards scarred.
Tatay coaxed keys and tuning pins. He nursed
Strings and worn dampers to life. Our Tatay
Bade us play, 'til he wept for our Inay.
Then, he lifted Song's veil and kissed her.
What did we know of that war or his tears?
We knew only what the timber remembered—
Love found in wing-shaped wood, in *harana*
Sung low through open window, in *cariñosa*
Flapping like surrender. Our Tatay's labor,
Our *kundiman*, wrought by maple and hornbeam.



Peñaloza Named New Kidd Fellow

Michelle Peñaloza (poetry '10) has been named the Kidd Fellow for the 2009-2010 school year.



"I'm terrifically excited to have been selected for this year's Kidd Fellowship, and I look forward

to getting started," said Peñaloza, who will be replacing Jennifer Kepka (fiction '08).

Each year, an MFA student is appointed the Walter and Nancy Kidd Tutorials Program Fellow to mentor new tutors, conduct pedagogy sessions, and help the Kidd Director coordinate and promote the program.

"I look forward to working with Michelle," said Kidd Director Professor Laurie Lynn Drummond, "she brings with her a great deal of expertise and wisdom." •

Willey Wins Logsdon Prize

Brenden Willey (fiction '09) is the recipient of this year's Richard and Juliette Logsdon Prize in Fiction.

"I am honored to receive this year's Logsdon Prize. I imagine the competition was tough between 'Far Woods' and the worthy stories of my friends, and I am thankful for this wonderful encouragement," Willey said.

The Logsdon Award is given each year to a second-year MFA fiction writer for work of exceptional merit.

Willey is from Kernersville, NC, and earned his BA in English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. •



"What is it? his father said. What's happened?"

Nathan thought to describe it but what came to him was the three of them staining the shed last fall. The mixture dripped down the brooms and off their elbows and his father and Ben worked shirtless in the sun. Ben laughed at Nathan for keeping his shirt on, pinched his chest hard. Nathan watched him for a minute, then swiped the broom across his back, and Ben had him on the ground before their father pulled them apart."

—from "Far Woods"

New Memorial Poetry Prize



Poet and critic Reginald Shepherd (1963-2008) died in September after a long and painful battle with cancer. To honor Shepherd's legacy, Alan Contreras, Eugene writer and supporter of the arts, has created The Reginald Shepherd Memorial Prize in Poetry. The prize is available to current UO undergraduate students and seeks to "support poetry that reflects classical and modern sensibilities in language of precision and beauty."

Shepherd earned a BA degree from Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont, and MFA degrees in Creative Writing from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and the University of Iowa in Iowa City. He taught literature and creative writing, most recently at Antioch University and earlier at the University of West Florida, Cornell University, and Northern Illinois University.

Shepherd published five books of poetry (*Some Are Drowning*; *Angel, Interrupted*; *Wrong*; *Otherhood*; and *Fata Morgana*) and a book of essays called *Orpheus in the Bronx*, which has just been named a finalist for the award for criticism by the National Book Critics Circle, and he edited two poetry anthologies (*The Iowa Anthology of New American Poetries* and *Lyric Postmodernisms*). He recently completed a sixth book of poetry and a second volume of essays that will be published posthumously. Among many awards for his writing, he won a

Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008 and won the 2007 silver medal for poetry in the Florida Book Awards.

"I write because I would like to live forever," admits Shepherd in *Why I Write*. "I seek to immortalize the world I have found and made for myself, even knowing that I won't be there to witness that immortality, mine or my work's, that by definition I will never know whether my endeavor has been successful. But when has impossibility ever deterred anyone from a cherished goal?"

This year's first prize winner was Jane Roark, for her poem "Secrets on a String." There were also three judge's choice awards: Professor Geri Doran chose Jayson Choe's poem "Snapshots of Midtown"; Professor John Gage chose Mike O'Brien's "Confession"; and Professor Karen Ford chose Allise Penning's "Precarious."

For more information about the 2010 Reginald Shepherd memorial Prize in Poetry, please visit:

uoregon.edu/~crwrweb. •

Wilkes Award for Nature Writing

Last year the MFA Program acquired a new writing award, sponsored by Penny Wilkes, writer and professor of creative and nature writing at National University. The Wilkes Award for Writing About the Environment is a prize given each year for "writing that has some connection to the environment and that shows a human relationship to the environment, which is especially important in this day and age when we really need to get back to nature," said Wilkes in an interview. "Nature provides the perfect venue for writers to get into the mode of employing all of the senses. And for new writers, writing about nature can be a kind of springboard into other types of writing," she added.

This year's Wilkes Award winners are: Christopher Bradley for



From l. to r.: Natasha Sunderland, Brenden Willey, Michelle Peñaloza

"Shelter" (nonfiction); Zane Biebelle for "Obligation" (fiction); Natasha Sunderland for "Ascension" (nonfiction); and Michelle Peñaloza for "Magsaysay Drive, Olongapo City: Na Wala Sa Pagsasalin" and "Heceta Beach" (poetry). Each winner receives a \$350 scholarship.

Photo by Jack Liu

An award-winning columnist and poet, Penny Wilkes has several poetry collections: *Whispers from the Land*, *Travels in Spain* (2006), *In Spite of War* (2007), and *Flying Lessons* (2008).

When asked what advice she might have for young writers, Wilkes said, "Eat words and write. Find books that inspire, authors you can read over and over, and devour them." She recommends Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*, which, she says, "is a classic novel in terms of teaching metaphor and character development with a handle on nature." She also suggested *Crossing to Safety* and *Spectator Bird*, both by Wallace Stegner. •

Meet the Incoming MFA Students

Monica Brown received her BA in English from Middle Tennessee State University where for two years she was the editorial assistant of the journal *Poems & Plays*. She twice received MTSU's Homer Pittard Creative Writing Award for poetry and completed minors in Writing and Secondary Education. As a student teacher, Monica taught English and a multi-genre writing workshop for high school students. Monica currently lives in Tennessee; she's lived alternately there and in Georgia for fourteen years. Growing up, she lived in New England and Washington. She's thrilled about UO's Program and looks forward to developing her work there. Monica will be moving to Eugene this August with her husband Chris, their two dogs, and one reluctant cat.

Owen Cooney claims to be from Connecticut, though he has spent more than half of his life as a New Yorker. Generally, people find him fairly agreeable, but somewhat boring in an inoffensive kind of way. He enjoys history, science fiction, and spending time with his wife Julie. Prior to attending the University of Oregon, Owen wrote television commercials, and attended Connecticut College (which is in Connecticut, obviously).

Lena Bezawork Grönlund grew up in the north of Sweden and has worked in the Library and Information Science field and as a freelance writer. She has lived in Missoula, Cleveland, and Los Angeles and loves all three cities equally. Last year she studied writing at and worked for Cleveland State University. She writes poetry and some fiction. She is excited about moving to Eugene in the fall to begin the MFA program.

Sarah Gurman was born and raised in Northern Virginia, but fell for the West Coast mountains on a backpacking trip when she was 17. Upon earning her BA in creative writing from Northwestern University, and having endured four years of the frozen tundra of Evanston winters, she moved to

California, resolved to break into publishing in a place where thermometers register positive Fahrenheit. After two years in L.A. as a writer for a magazine, tutor at 826 LA, and aspiring surfer, she moved to San Francisco. Still smitten with Nor Cal, she has spent the past two years editing children's books, taking writing courses, and exploring the limits of tofu. Currently in the throes of a short story collection and a blog resuscitation, Sarah is excited to make Eugene her new home to study and workshop writing full time—and reunite with the Cascades.

Sarah Hulse grew up in Spokane, Washington. She attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where she studied international politics before deciding that she didn't want to join the Foreign Service after all. Instead, she moved back to the West and earned her BA in English from the University of Montana. Sarah never lost her childhood love of horses, and she has worked as a stablehand, riding instructor, and veterinary assistant. Sarah is a licensed secondary teacher and spent the 2008-2009 school year teaching American literature and world literature to high school students in Moscow, Idaho. Sarah will be moving to Eugene with her cat, Zephyr.

Joe Ireland grew up in Central Oregon. He graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Hunter College of the City University of New York with a BA in English (Creative Writing) and Film Studies. A fiction and nonfiction writer, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Hunter Envoy*, Hunter's student newspaper, and a tutor at the college's writing center. He and his fiancée, Janna Washington, recently stuffed their station wagon full of suitcases and drove from New York City to Oregon in just under a week. Joe is very excited about being back in his home state, and looks forward to meeting the students and faculty in the Creative Writing program come September.

Michael Ogletree is a graduate of Georgia State University and a native Atlantan. He spent last year in Mainz, Germany, at Johannes Gutenberg University, where he taught English as a foreign language. He is the poetry editor of *SUB-LIT*, and he co-edits for *Warbler: A Word & Song Zine*. He is the author of the chapbook *This Is Not a Venn Diagram* (Taiga Press, 2008). His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Journal*, *BlazeVOX*, *Fourteen Hills*, *InDigest*, *Poetry Midwest*, *Weave*, and elsewhere. Michael is thrilled about his upcoming move to Oregon. He will be accompanied by his fiancée Taylor and his two cats, Isobel and Alabaster. He is terrified of horses.

Rachel Swafford is a poet originally from New Mexico, though she has spent the past seven years in Cincinnati, OH where she earned her BA in English and Creative Writing. Rachel has spent the past two years working at a Japanese sushi restaurant, and, although this has proved to be an interesting experience, she is greatly looking forward to focusing her attention on writing. She has a three year-old son who keeps both Rachel and her partner Jeff busy. They are currently packing and preparing to make their way out to Oregon in the next few weeks, which everyone is very excited about.

Rachel Willoughby hails from Hettinger, North Dakota. After graduating from Wheaton College in 2006 with a BA in English Literature, she lived in Nanchang, China for one year, teaching ESL to university freshmen and learning to speak very poor, but earnest, Mandarin. She has spent the past two years as an editorial coordinator in the suburbs of Chicago, watching her philodendron grow exponentially and making sure authors get paid. She is a fiction writer and looks forward to the topography of the Pacific Northwest.

2008—2009 Reading Series

This year, the Creative Writing Program hosted another vibrant and diverse Reading Series. The Series began in the fall of 2008, with fiction writer and UO Creative Writing Program MFA graduate **Corrina Wycoff**. Wycoff read from her story collection *O Street* and led the



year's first master workshop, which, she said, "was really a wonderful experience. It made me remember everything I loved about the program: the faculty, the time to write, the beautiful town, the feeling of community among the graduate students, and the funny smell of Columbia Hall." Wycoff's fiction and essays have appeared in *Other Voices*, *New Letters*, *Coal City Review*, *The Oregon Quarterly*, *Brainchild*, *Out of Line*, *Golden Handcuffs*, and the anthologies *Best Essays Northwest* and *The Clear Cut Future*. In addition to her MFA from Oregon, she holds an MA in English from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She lives with her son in Seattle, Washington, and teaches English and writing at Pierce College.

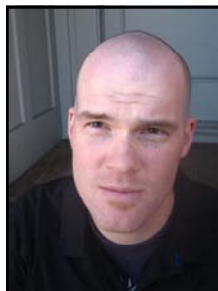


Following Wycoff's visit in November of 2008, the Creative Writing Program hosted two more alums, poets **Matthew Dickman** and **Michael McGriff**. "What a delight to be part of all this," said Dickman. "I think I speak for both of us when I say that we are honored and privileged to be part of the Creative Writing Program's Reading Series. What a rush this all has been." In addition to their regular reading, the two young poets also gave a short reading for students at the Clark Honors College.

Matthew Dickman is author of the chapbook, *Amigos*. His first full-length collection, *All American Poem*, won the 2008 American Poetry Review/

Honickman First Book Prize in Poetry. His work has appeared in *Tin House*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, *Agni Online*, and *The New Yorker*, among other publications. A native of Portland, Oregon, Dickman attended the University of Oregon and is the recipient of fellowships from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Michael McGriff attended the University of Oregon and the University of Texas at Austin where he was a Michener Fellow in Creative Writing. He received the 2005 Ruth Lilly Fellowship from Poetry magazine, and his poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Northwest Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *The Canary*, *American Literary Review*, and else-



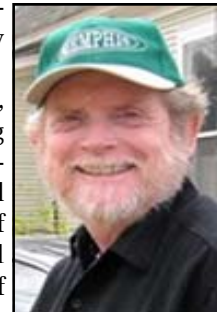
where. His chapbook, *Choke*, was recently published by Traprock Books. McGriff is currently a Stegner Fellow in the Stanford Creative Writing Program.

Winter term brought a reading from **Laurie Lynn Drummond's** new novel *Memories of the Living and the Lives of the Dead*. "Reading in this year's series made me proud to be part of such a vital community of writers." Drummond's *Anything You Say Can and Will Be Used Against You: Stories* received starred reviews in Kirkus and Library Journal, was a finalist for a PEN/Hemingway Award, and won a Violet Crown Award from the Writers' League of Texas and the Jesse Jones Award from the Texas Institute of Letters. One of the stories from the collection,



"Something About a Scar," won the 2005 Edgar Award for Best Short Story. Drummond's fiction has appeared in such journals as *Southern Review*, *Fiction*, and *Story*, and she was a Tennessee Williams Scholar in fiction. Formerly a uniformed officer with the Baton Rouge Police Department, she is now an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Oregon.

In spring term, the Creative Writing Program hosted fiction writer **Richard Bausch**, author of ten novels and seven collections of short stories, including *Take Me Back*, which was nominated for a PEN/Faulkner Award; *The Last Good Time*; *Mr. Field's Daughter*; *Violence*; *The Selected Stories of Richard Bausch*; *In the Night Season*; *Hello to the Cannibals*; and *Thanksgiving Night*. His short stories have appeared in numerous prize-winning anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories*, *O. Henry*, and *Pushcart*. He has received many awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a Guggenheim fellowship, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award, and the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters. Previously Professor of English and Heritage Chair of Creative Writing at George Mason University, Bausch now holds the Lillian and Morrie A. Moss Chair of Excellence at The University of Memphis. When asked what advice he had for young writers, Bausch urged, "It's important to remember that being a writer doesn't require one to be smart or clever. It simply requires willingness, a willingness to keep at it. You can work on a piece 75 times. Eventually, you're going to get it right." Bausch also served as the 2009 Kidd Competition judge in fiction, and said of Kevin Armstrong's winning story "Camping With Patsy Cline," "It manages to use some very subtle touches of dramatic irony, a very difficult thing to do well. I con-



2008—2009 Reading Series

gratulate the writer for the clarity of emotion and the attention to the details that make the drama matter.”

For its final reading of the year, the Creative Writing department hosted **Richard Tillinghast**, author of seven books of poetry. His first collection was *Sleep Watch* (1969). *The Knife and Other Poems* followed in 1980, *Sewanee in Ruins* in 1981, and *Our Flag Was Still There* in 1984. Two books of poems from the 1990s include *The Stonecutter’s Hand* (1995) and *Today in the Café Trieste* (1997). This year Tillinghast has published three books: *Finding Ireland*, subtitled “A poet’s explorations of Irish litera-



ture and culture,” *The New Life*, poems, and in collaboration with his daughter, *Dirty August*, a book of Turkish translations from the selected poems of Edip Cansever. Tillinghast, who judged the Kidd Tutorial competition in poetry, also presented a special reading of his work with the students of the Clark Honors College.

“My visit to the University of Oregon was the highlight of my spring trip to the US,” said Tillinghast. “I liked the energy of the students, and the kindness of the faculty—my old friend Garrett Hongo; David Bradley, whose novels I have admired for years; Geri Doran, who impressed me by the thoroughness of her preparation for my visit as well as for her warmth and generosity while I was there; and the other faculty and students whom I met. I hope to be back again soon!”



Next year’s series will include Cai Emmons and Marilyn Chin, Miriam Gershow, Mark Jarman, J. T. Bushnell, and Keetje Kuipers. ●



Richard Tillinghast



Michael McGriff

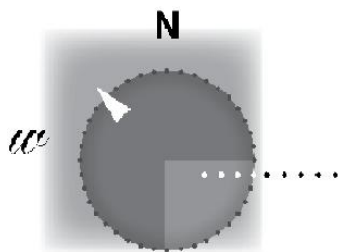


Matthew Dickman



Faculty and audience members listen intently.

NW Review Undergoes Transformation



Long housed in the English Department—and edited for twenty-nine years by poet and literature instructor John Witte—the *Northwest Review* has recently moved to the UO's Creative Writing Program.

"The appointment of Creative Writing faculty as editors brings the UO's premier journal and its premier writing program together in an exciting and transformative new alliance," said Professor Geri Doran, the journal's general editor.

For their first issue, the journal's faculty editors, Professors Geri Doran (nonfiction), Ehud Havazelet (fiction), and Garrett Hongo (poetry) have chosen distinctive poetry, fiction, and essays from a cross-section of today's most prominent literary

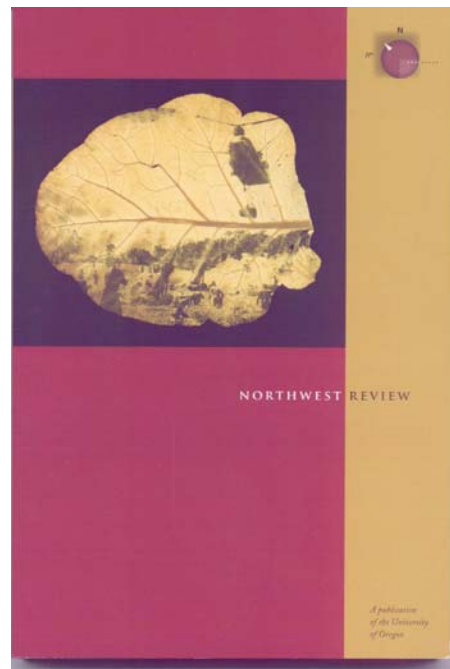
figures and emerging writers. This issue of *Northwest Review* preserves a tradition of publishing regional writers while also opening the journal to diverse voices from across the nation and around the world. Writing by UO alumni Susan Rich and Corinna Wycoff is featured alongside the work of Pulitzer Prize winners Yusef Komunyakaa and Charles Wright, and the cover features a photograph by Binh Danh, a Vietnamese-American photographer whose work was recently on exhibit at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

"I'm delighted at the quality of the new format and very grateful to Geri Doran for all the dedication and hours she's put in," said fiction editor Havazelet. "On the editing side, it's been very nice to be in touch with writers I've fallen out of contact with, and the range and quality of work we've been able to gather is gratifying."

University of Oregon's Creative Writing Program aims to publish a journal of awareness and inspired transformation. *Northwest Review*

Issue 47.2 pays tribute to the journal's exciting past and promising future.

For more information about the *Northwest Review*, including subscription information and submission guidelines, please visit their website at nwr.uoregon.edu. •



GRADUATE NEWS —Cont'd from P.3

faculty Creative Writing position at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Vancouver, B.C.

Susan Rich ('96) was awarded First Place in the *TLS* Poetry contest for her poem "Different Places To Pray." Her collection *The Alchemist's Kitchen* will be published in 2010.

Jeffrey Schultz ('03) was one of five 2009 recipients of the prestigious Ruth Lilly Fellowship for \$15,000.

Jeremy Simmons ('08) "Bluebird" was published in *A cappella Zoo*.

Lysley Tenorio ('98) won a 2008 Whiting Award.

Arlo Voorhees ('09) poem "Dear Abby" was published in *Redivider: A Journal of New Literature & Art*. •

INCOMING STUDENTS —Cont'd from P.7

Arsevi Zeynep Seyran started life on the Aegean Coast of Turkey. She moved to Long Island, New York as a kid and began enjoying her share of Thanksgiving jokes as soon as she picked up English. A year after entering SUNY Stony Brook as a Poli Sci major in 2004, she transferred to Bosphorus University in Istanbul, where she's been living for the past four years. She completes her Bachelor's degrees in English and Philosophy this summer. She often goes by "Arsevi" but has an ever-growing list of nicknames, to which most contributions are welcome. Oregon feels like quite the unpredictable venture from this neck of the wide, vast woods—very exciting, for the most part.

Zondie Zinke, a fiction writer, was born and raised in New York City,

then lived in the Bay Area for a decade working in social services; she spent a bit of time in Baltimore and a bit more in Tennessee and is now happy to be moving to Oregon with her partner, dog, and daughter. •

Call for Student / Alumni News:

Let us know how you're doing—whether you're a current or former CRWR student. Tell us about:

- your experience in the Program
- your accomplishments
- *current students*: what you look forward to after graduation
- *alumni*: what you've been doing since

Submit your update to:
Creative Writing Program:
5243 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-5243

or via web: cwrweb@uoregon.edu

Special Reading Events

In addition to our regular Reading Series, this year the MFA Program hosted two special program-related readings.



In December, **John Witte**, UO Senior English Instructor, read from his latest book of poetry, *Second Nature*. Witte's poems have appeared with regularity over the years in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The Paris*

Review, *Kenyon Review*, *Antaeus*, and *American Poetry Review*. He has received two writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a residency at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and numerous other grants and awards. He is also the author of *Loving the Days* and *The Hurling*.

In April **Ralph Salisbury**, one of the original founders of the University of Oregon Creative Writing MFA Program, read from his new work, *The Indian Who Bombed Berlin*



and *Other Stories*. Salisbury is the author of three books of short fiction and seven books of poetry, the most recent of which, *Rainbows of Stone*, was chosen by Maxine Kumin as a finalist in the Oregon Book Awards. Other poetry titles include *A White Rainbow*, *Poems of a Cherokee Heritage*, and *Going to the Water*. His two other short fiction titles are *One Indian and Two Chiefs*, and *The Last Rattlesnake Throw*. He has received many awards, among them a Rockefeller Foundation Creative Writing Residency at the Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio, Italy; the Chapelbrook Award; the Northwest Poetry Award; two Fulbright professorships; and an Amparts (USIS) lectureship in India.

The Creative Writing Program is delighted to have hosted these two prominent local writers. ●

The Boundaries of Memoir

Professors Laurie Lynn Drummond and David Bradley participated in a panel discussion—“The Boundaries of Memoir”—with English Professor Gordon Sayre in the fall. *Cascade* magazine convened the panel to consider the pitfalls of creative nonfiction. “Memoir continues to inhabit a nebulous place in the literary world where emotional truth may not match historical truth and where ethics and aesthetics collide,” said *Cascade* magazine.

“I don’t write memoir,” said Professor Bradley, “because I don’t think that I, all by myself,



From l. to r.: Laurie Lynn Drummond, Gordon Sayre, David Bradley

am that interesting. I write about experiences.”

The panel was inspired in large part by former UO student Peggy Seltzer having published a book she called memoir that was later discovered to be fictional. ●

Please consider a donation to the Creative Writing Program

With your support, we can expand our innovative programs, such as our annual *Creative Writing Reading Series*.

GIVING ONLINE: You may also give online at <https://supportuo.uofoundation.org>. Be sure to designate your gift to one of the funds listed along with solicitation code AS0210 in the “Memo” portion of your check.

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CRWR Summer Session 2009

First 4-week Session

CRWR 230
Introduction to Poetry Writing
June 22 - July 19, MTWR, 10:00 -
11:50am, 4 credits
Instructor: Claire Whitenack
Introduction to forms and techniques of writing poetry.

Second 4-week Session

CRWR 240
Introduction to Fiction Writing
July 20-August 12, MTWR, 2:00 -
3:50pm, 4 credits
Instructor: Will Fleming
Introduction to forms and techniques of writing fiction.

New Creative Writing Website

Be sure to check out our refurbished website this fall for information on undergraduate and graduate courses, faculty, the Annual Reading Series, admissions, writing awards, the Kidd Tutorial Program, and much more. Visit us at: <http://uoregon.edu/~crwrweb>

Suggested Reading from Visiting Writers:

Richard Bausch
War and Peace, Leo Tolstoy

Matthew Dickman
To The Wedding, John Berger, and Diane Wakowski's *The Butcher's Apron*

Laurie Lynn Drummond
The Collected Works of Anton Chekhov, and for a more contemporary read, Elizabeth Stout's *Olive Kitteridge*

Michael McGriff
Winter Stars, Larry Levis, and *Jesus' Son*, Denis Johnson

Richard Tillinghast
E. M. Forster's *Howard's End* and *A Room with a View*

Corrina Wycoff
Deborah Eisenberg's *Under the 82nd Airborne*