

MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Creative Writing Program

Newsletter... April... 2018.....



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Get Lit! Festival, April 23-29, 2018

Watch for the Volunteer Email Coming Soon

The Get Lit! Festival is an annual celebration of reading, writing, and storytelling. The weeklong festival includes readings, interviews, workshops, panel discussions, poetry slams, writing contests, and much more. Volunteers are needed for many of the activities. An email will be coming out the first week of April to ask for your help. You can reply to that email or stop by the Get Lit! office and talk to Kate or Jay.



Welcome to our New VoiceOver Hosts: Genevieve Richards & Nate Sand

(R)evolution: Join us at Lindaman's on Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 PM as Genevieve and Nate takeover VoiceOver. After party at Genevieve's place [2320 W. 2nd Ave].



Enjoy readings by past and present MFA students & faculty as you partake in the amazing food and drink at Lindaman's Bistro 1235 South Grand Blvd on Lower South Hill See you there!



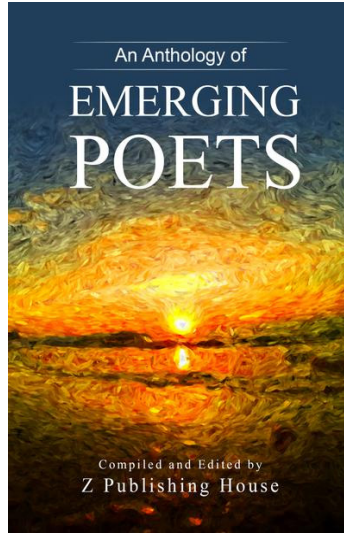
Program Cheers and More

Taylor Kensel

Published!!

Congratulations, Taylor on the upcoming publication in Z Publishing's An Anthology of Emerging Poets.

Available April 8th at:
zpublishinghouse.com



Aunties Events

Thursday, April 12 - 7:00 - 8:30

Seabury Blair: Day Hike!

Saturday, April 14 - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Signing: WARren Rainer's "Bel Air Man"

Saturday, April 14 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Writers of the Future: Volume 34 Release Celebration and Signing

Thursday, April. 19 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Lou McKee: *Klee Wyck Journal*

Friday, April 20 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Spokane Writes: Anthology Reading

Wednesday, May 2 - 1:30 p.m.

Signing: *Dawn Service*

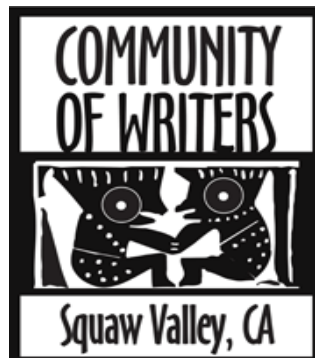
Wednesday, May 2 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Dorje Dolma: *Yak Girl*

Summer Conferences

Port Townsend & Squaw Valley

Congratulations Genevieve Richards, Clare Wilson & Daniel Spiro for receiving scholarships to attend the Port Townsend Writers' Conference this summer. Also, congratulations to Maura Lammers, Alex Dew & Daniel Spiro for receiving scholarships to attend the Squaw Valley Community of Writers this summer.



Letter from the Editor

Greetings MFA People:

It's hard to believe that Spring Quarter is already here. It seems like just yesterday that I packed my bags and moved to Spokane to start this new adventure. My concerns were: Can I find an apartment with A/C and a washer & dryer? What's with all this smoke in the air? Then: How do I kill my darlings or find my voice? What the heck is a lyric essay, anyway? But hey, I've been in my apartment for seven months, the smoke is gone, I loves me a lyric essay (in fact it's my favorite thing to write) and I've killed a few of my darlings, though it's still hard! Even better than all that, I'm more relaxed and comfortable in my writer's skin and have found a few kindred souls who actually "get" what I write. My social life is limited but I never miss a Voiceover because sitting in a room full of writers sharing their great work with the rest of us is inspiring.

The best part of this journey is actually hard to describe. The feeling of letting go of old ideas of myself as a certain kind of writer, and seeing a nebulous idea (the thesis project) actually take shape under the surface, is kind of exciting. Out of the fog of my first two quarters is emerging a shape with some clues attached, and those clues have "birthed" from sandbox prompts and writing assignments. I'm starting to loosen my grip on what I thought I wanted to create when I started, and am watching something new percolate from inside and leak out through my pen. Life is good!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I want to thank Cody for the crash course in InDesign and I hope to learn more as I go.

Happy Spring!

Kerry

Visiting Writer

Emily Van Kley

Emily Van Kley was raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula but now lives with her partner in Olympia, Washington, where she writes, works at a cooperative grocery, practices aerial acrobatics, and nurses a near-pathological longing for snow. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous publications and anthologies, including *The Iowa Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Mississippi Review*, *Best New Poets 2013*, and *Best American Poetry 2017*. Emily holds an MFA from Eastern Washington University and has taught composition and creative writing at the high school and college levels. Her first book *The Cold and the Rust* is forthcoming from Persea in spring of 2018.



Emily Van Kley is Reading April 13th, 2018, 7:30 at Spark Central



DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

I am concerned about overloading my schedule for year two. There is thesis, of course, but I also don't want to miss out on internships. So I guess I have two related questions. How many internship credits are reasonable for the thesis year and if I am going to load up at least one quarter with extra credits, should it be fall, winter or spring?

Thanks!

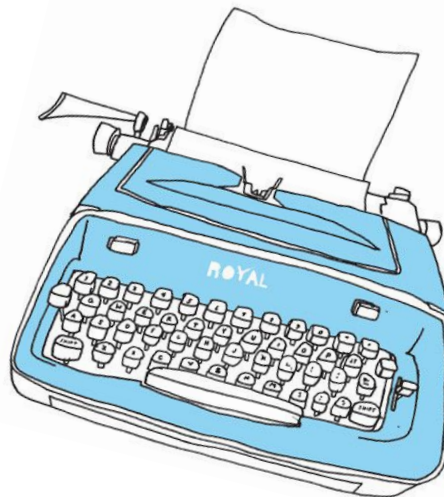
Nervous First Year

Dear Nervous,

Those are really great questions. It has been said over and over again that you have come to this amazing MFA program for specific reasons: most importantly to have two full years to write and work on your craft. But many of us came, as well, because of the experiences gained teaching college level classes and from interning in magazine and book publishing, teaching in the community and helping with all aspects of one of the best literary festivals in Washington. We definitely want to hone our craft, create a body of work, and hopefully get some publishing under our belt. But to be honest, we also need to find work after we graduate and these internships give us the experience not only to get a feel for what might excite us but also to put some meat on our resume. Jobs in editing, writing, publishing and teaching can be a part of our future instead of flipping burgers at a fast food joint while trying to write the next best seller. The answer might be different for each first year when signing up for internship credits in year two. It depends on your interests, and what you might want on your resume. Another need it can fulfill is a social one. Year two is a time when I had to learn to say no, and to hunker down and party less, so that I could focus on my own creativity. But I still need a social life, so some of those internship meetings or teaching gigs kept me in the loop with other humans and that has been really important. So, take the internship credits you need, or ones that are important to your goals, but be selective and don't over-do it. As far as which quarter to overload, it really depends on when your required courses fall, because when a form & theory class in your genre is offered, you have to take it right then! But here is my two cents: during fall quarter you will be getting used to establishing a rhythm and schedule for writing thesis, and spring quarter you will be in full court press, so winter quarter might be the time to bulk up on credits if you have to. In the end, we are all different, so just talk to your advisor and pay attention to your health and follow your gut.

You'll do great!

A Second Year



Opportunities for Submission

South 85 Deadline: May 1, 2018

South 85 is a semi-annual online literary journal run by the Converse College Low-Residency MFA Program. We publish fiction, nonfiction, poetry, reviews, and art by new, emerging and well-established writers and artists. While we consider all quality work that follows the submission guidelines, we are especially interested in pieces that demonstrate a strong voice and/or a sense of place. *South 85 Journal* accepts submissions for its Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry categories during its formal reading periods.

www.south85journal.com

Phantom Drift Deadline: April 30, 2018 \$3 submission fee

Phantom Drift is a non-profit journal dedicated to publishing fabulist writers and artists by producing a perfect-bound print edition and paying contributors for their work. Submission guidelines can be found on our website:

www.phantomdrift.org

Adanna Deadline: May 1, 2018

This literary journal is titled *Adanna* because women over the centuries have been defined by men in politics, through marriage, and most importantly, by the men who fathered them. Submissions to *Adanna* must reflect women's issues or topics, celebrate womanhood, and shout out in passion. Guidelines available at:

<http://adannajournal.blogspot.com/p/submission-guidelines.html>

Guernica Deadline: Submissions currently open

Founded online in 2004, *Guernica* is an award-winning non-profit magazine focused on the intersection of arts and politics. *Guernica* welcomes submissions from writers and visual artists at all stages of their careers. Read the extensive submission guidelines on our website before submitting.

www.guernicamag.com

Alaska Quarterly Review Deadline, May 15, 2018

Alaska Quarterly Review is a literary journal devoted to contemporary literary art, publishing fiction, short plays, poetry, photo essays, and literary non-fiction in traditional and experimental styles. It is published by the University of Alaska Anchorage in partnership with the Center for the Narrative and Lyric Arts. The editors encourage new and emerging writers, while continuing to publish award winning and established writers.

Alaska Quarterly Review accepts hard-copy submissions only via snail-mail, addressed to the appropriate editor. Their address and submission guidelines can be found at their website:

www.aqreview.org

Prairie Schooner Deadline: May 1, 2018

Prairie Schooner, a national literary quarterly published with the support of the English Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Press, is home to the best fiction, poetry, essays, and reviews being published today by beginning, mid-career, and established writers. We're currently open to general submissions of poetry, short fiction, and creative essays. As always, our submissions remain fee-free. Please consider supporting us by ordering a copy or subscription when you submit! We'll continue reading until May 1, 2018. *Prairie Schooner's* intention is to publish the best writing available, both from beginning and established writers. We publish short stories, poems, interviews, imaginative essays of general interest, and reviews of current books of poetry and fiction. Scholarly articles requiring footnote references should be submitted to journals of literary scholarship. We do not read simultaneous submissions, except in the case of contest submissions, and submissions must be received between September 1 and May 1. We do not consider work that has been previously published anywhere, including online publications. We read as quickly as we can, but please allow 3-4 months for a reply.

About: <http://prairieschooner.unl.edu/>

Submissions: <https://prairieschooner.submittable.com/submit>



Remember to send an email with any information about awards, publications or events for the May Newsletter to: kerryrutherford6@gmail.com