

# MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Creative Writing Program

Newsletter - January - 2019



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## Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Bonnie Nadzam



January 18th, 2019  
7:30 PM-8:30 PM

Spark Central  
1214 W Summit Pkwy



Bonnie Nadzam is an American writer. Her first novel, *Lamb*, was recipient of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. The book was made into an award-winning independent film, *Lamb*. Nadzam is co-author of *Love in the Anthropocene* with environmental ethicist Dale Jamieson. Her second novel, *Lions* was a Finalist for the PEN USA Literary Award in Fiction. Her third novel, *31*, is forthcoming. Her fiction, essays and poetry have appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *Orion Magazine*, *Granta*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, and many other journals. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Environmental Studies from Carleton College, a Master of Fine Arts from Arizona State University and an MA and PhD from the University of Southern California. She lives in Minnesota with her family.





## Aileen Keown Vaux Career Advisor

Aileen Keown Vaux, MFA

Career Advisor | College of Arts, Letters, and Education

Advising for careers in Education & Teaching; Writing, Editing, and Journalism; Philosophy & Humanities; Foreign Languages; Fine & Performing Arts; Health Promotion & Recreation; and Health Sciences.

M.F.A., Poetry, Eastern Washington University

B.A., English Literature, Whitman College

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Aileen Keown Vaux's title at EWU is Career Advisor for Arts, Letters & Education. We of the MFA program get to benefit from her expertise, not for just finding a job, but for strategically perusing all of the options available post-MFA. I have never before thought of myself as someone who might "strategically peruse" anything. I'm more of a creative, right-brain, go-with-the-flow type person. But after spending an hour of quality time in Aileen's Spokane Campus office on a cold and windy Thursday in December, I felt all warm and cozy about my future prospects.

The Welcome to Career Services flyer I picked up in Aileen's office says, "Career Services helps students choose inspiring majors, gain significant professional experience, and plan their future careers." Advisors use assessment tools, teach career courses, offer professional development (like resume writing and mock interview and preparation), and connect students with career fairs, meet-ups, luncheons, tune-ups and more. All of that can enhance our chances of finding not only "paid work" but a satisfying position that matches our values as well.

Helping a client to discover their criteria for a satisfying career or job is one of the things that Aileen does best. I was so impressed with her ability to deeply listen. She is not only a skilled and empathetic listener, but she helps students evaluate themselves on many levels, using a variety of self-assessment tools. Once a student identifies and prioritizes their values, it becomes easier to decide if a career or job is the best fit for them.

The first step in the process of working with a Career Advisor is making an appointment for the initial conversation. You can make an appointment by calling or emailing Aileen, or by using Handshake. Handshake is a great tool, found online in the EWU student portal. It not only lets you schedule a career advising appointment, but you can search for jobs and internships, find career workshops and networking events, and lots more.

"If you're feeling anxious about what comes next, just having a conversation and making a plan will reduce that anxiety," Aileen told me. It's never too soon to start the process. For MFA students who will graduate this June, now's the time to get started. And first year's should also take advantage of Aileen's ideas about what you can be doing now to create the skills you'll need to find that perfect placement post-MFA.



# Cheers Kudos & Events

## Marie Hoffman

Congratulations Marie, Class of 2014! Marie's poem *Seal Man*, was published in *Tilde: A Literary Journal*, September 2018 issue.

## Briana Loveall

Congratulations Briana, Class of 2017! Briana's essay, *Tatau*, has been nominated for a Pushcart by *The Forge Literary Magazine*.

## Tony Payne

Congratulations Tony, Class of 2016! Tony's essay, *Under the Hood of San Francisco's Most Innovative Classroom*, appearing in Archbishop Riordan High School's *Future* magazine, won 1st Place for a Feature Story in a Business or Trade Publication by the San Francisco Press Club. Tony is currently Senior Copywriter at eBay in San Jose, CA.

## Janee J. Baugher

Congratulations Janee, Class of 2001! Janee has two ekphrastic poems forthcoming in TIN HOUSE, spring issue #79 (which will be available at AWP). Janee will also be presenting the panel "Peter Elbow Tribute with Peter Elbow" at the AWP conference (3/29 Friday @ 3pm, Room D137) and our own Gregory Spatz will be a one of her panelists.

## Cody Smith

Congratulations Cody, Class of 2017! Cody has four poems coming out, two in *Sugar House: Elegy for the Pond & And There'd Be* and two more in *Prairie Schooner: Dementia and the Diaspora of Family & I Told Him I Was Too Far From Home for Him to Keep Falling*.

## Mary Leuna Christensen

Congratulations Mary, Class of 2017! Mary's poem *Mandorla* will be in the winter issue of *Sugar House Review*.



Voice Over 7pm-9pm  
Lindaman's Gourmet-To-Go  
1235 S Grand Blvd



## Port Townsend Writers' Conference

Congratulations to the following writers receiving scholarships to the 2019 PTWC:

Fiction: Ben Kuntz  
Nonfiction: Heidi Lasher  
Poetry: Micaela Gerhardt

"The applications for this year's Port Townsend Writers' Conference scholarships were the strongest I've ever seen. Excellent job, applicants."

- Sam Ligon

## Aunties Events

**Saturday Jan. 12 - 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**  
Signing: Mike Shields "We are G.U."

**Saturday Jan. 19 - 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**  
Signing: Cris Currie's "Spokane's History of Skiing"



# Letter from the Editor

Dear MFA People!

Happy New Year!

I'm so excited to promote some of the way cool articles this month. Our featured person is Aileen Keown Vaux, a Career Advisor for all of us creative and writerly types (College of Arts, Letters, and Education). I encourage you all to read about her on page 2 and to book an appointment with her sometime this winter quarter so she can help you with all the skills you need to find the career of your dreams. I was so impressed with her style, and the tools at her disposal, and her excitement about the job she has, and her passion to give us access to all the information we need to match our values with some income (so impressed that my sentence is extremely long!). I am definitely making an appointment soon!

Don't miss the second month of our new feature, Voices from Beyond the MFA, featuring Briana Loveall and her amazing story of persistence in the face of rejection to get her essay published in *The Rumpus*. She has also been nominated for a Pushcart for her essay, *Tatau* in *The Forge*.

**Correction:** My apologies to Ellie Kozlowski for misspelling her name in the Kudos section of the November newsletter (with an "s" instead of a "z").

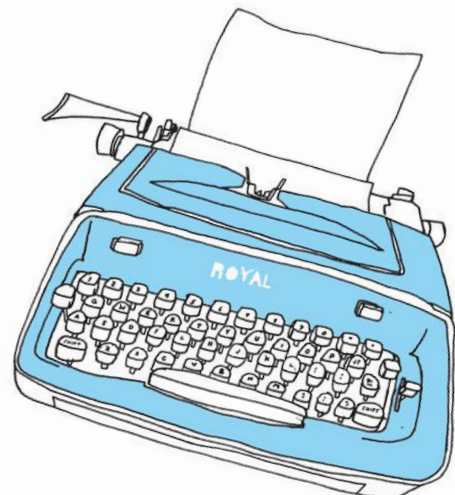
Don't miss the first Voice Over of 2019, coming up Saturday, January 12th! See the lineup on page 3. It's always fun and always inspiring. Join everyone at Lindaman's where the food is fantastic too.

See you on the second floor!

Kerry

Kerry Rutherford

**Remember to send an email with any information about awards, publications or events for the February newsletter to:** [kerryrutherford6@gmail.com](mailto:kerryrutherford6@gmail.com)



# Voices from Beyond the MFA

A guest Column from EWU MFA Program Graduate Brianna Lovall

## Don't Give Up

About a year ago I wrote and began submitting an essay for publication. During my time in the program, Natalie Kusz encouraged her students to submit their work to high-end literary magazines. Maybe Natalie believed our writing was developed enough for *The Sun* or *Antioch Review*; more likely, she was helping desensitize and ready us for inevitable rejection. When I left the program, I didn't make it my habit to submit to places that felt beyond my reach. My writerly life was still undeveloped.

When this essay was accepted for publication with a small press in Southern Florida, I was ecstatic. It wasn't a paying publication, but it was my name, in print, and to me that felt like making it. Several weeks after the acceptance email, I received another email from the editor of the magazine saying the piece was too political for the readership they served. She went on to explain that she worried there would be pushback and that funding might be cut. She loved my piece, but she loved her magazine more.

I found an online magazine willing to publish the piece. I explained the previous problem to the editor and he told me not to worry; the magazine he worked for routinely published politically-charged pieces. About a week after its publication, an individual referenced in the essay was threatening to sue the magazine for libel. A few days later, the piece was removed. The magazine owners didn't want to deal with a possible libel suit.

I considered putting the piece in the proverbial drawer and forgetting about it. I had multiple conversations with friends (with law degrees) and family, asking how they thought I should handle the situation. A lot of conversations from the program came back to me. What is our responsibility to memory and capital T truth? Anne Lamott said, "You own everything that happened to you. Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should have behaved better." My favorite is still Joyce Maynard's advice to, "Write as if you were an orphan."

I started emailing editors from magazines I knew published politically themed material. It seemed a little like cheating since I was a nobody-writer with a meek resume, and the proper etiquette was to use Submittable like everybody else. But I felt like I needed to explain the problems the essay was having finding its place, and that if published, the piece might render the magazine liable for a lawsuit.

The editors at *The Rumpus*—a magazine I'd been rejected from before—said they didn't have a budget to defend libel charges, but that they'd look at the essay and get back to me. They did:

*Bri,*

*Hi! I am actually surprised that the other magazines were skittish. As it stands this is a wonderful essay that clearly and poignantly delves into our rape culture, through your personal experience.*

*We'd love to have it.*

The point of all this is don't give up on your writing, your work, or the power of your voice. Sometimes hard rejections lead to beautiful victories.



Brianna Lovall is an MFA graduate. In 2018 she was a finalist for the Beacon Street Prize, and the winner of the Peninsula Pulse Hal Prize. In 2017 she was a finalist for the Annie Dillard Award, and the Montana Book Festival Award. Her work has appeared, or is forthcoming, with *The Rumpus*, *The Forge*, *Under the Gum Tree*, *Under the Sun*, *Glassworks Magazine*, *The Big Smoke*, *The Normal School* of Southern Literature, and others.



Read Brianna's Essay On *Rumpus*:

<https://therumpus.net/2018/11/enough-this-is-where-it-starts/>

# Opportunities for Submission

## Breakwater Review

Deadline: September – April for current open submissions, contest deadlines vary

Fee= open submissions are free - contests are \$10

*Breakwater Review* was founded in 2009 and is run by students of the University of Massachusetts Boston MFA program. We currently publish digitally three times a year.

**Complete guidelines for open submission and contests:** <https://www.breakwaterreview.com/submit>

## Upstreet Literary Magazine

Deadline: March 1, 2019 No fee

Submit Fiction or Nonfiction works of 5000 words or less via the online submission manager on our website. Find out more about our award winning magazine at: <http://upstreet-mag.org/about/>

**Guidelines available at:** <http://upstreet-mag.org/guidelines/>

## Mistake House Magazine

Deadline: February 16, 2019 Fee: \$3

Recalling Kurt Vonnegut's concept of the short story as a "Buddhist catnap," *Mistake House* is committed to creative and intellectual refreshment in the form of poetry, fiction, and visual art. *Mistake House* welcomes submissions by writers currently studying in graduate and undergraduate programs around the world, including work by previously unpublished writers. We accept the following as Word documents or PDFs only: Fiction: one story, maximum 5,000 words, Poetry: up to three poems, maximum 40 lines per poem.

**Complete Guidelines at:** <http://mistakehouse.org/submit/>

## Cream City Review

Deadline: April 1, 2019 Fee: none

*Cream City Review* is Milwaukee's leading literary journal devoted to publishing memorable and energetic pieces that push the boundaries of literature. Continually seeking to explore the relationship between form and content, *Cream City Review* features fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, visual art, reviews of contemporary literature and author interviews. Published biannually, *cream city review* is a volunteer-based, non-profit journal which has attracted readers and submissions from around the world. Approximately 4,000 submissions are received each year from both unpublished and established writers.

**Guidelines at:** <https://uwm.edu/creamcityreview/submit/>

## 2River Review

Deadline: varies with each issue Fee: none Genre: Poetry

We prefer poems with these qualities: image, subtlety, and point of view; a surface of worldly exactitude, as well as a depth of semantic ambiguity; and a voice that negotiates with its body of predecessors. Before submitting, please read the submission guidelines:

<http://www.2river.org/office/submit.html>

