

MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2017



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NEW VOICEOVER HOSTS

CONGRATULATIONS JENNY AND MATT!!

VoiceOver Presents:

BATTLE FOR THE MIC: FIRST YEAR TAKEOVER



WITH BLOOD THIRSTY NEW HOSTS:

JENNY NEWELL & MATT GREENE

FEATURING TALENTED READERS: MYLES BUCHANAN, LEAH BUTTERWICK, KIMBERLY POVLOSKI, KATIE SETZER, ABBEY HANCHER, MARY CHRISTENSEN, ALUM ERIN LEIGH & FACULTY BOMBHELL SAM LIGON

SATURDAY APRIL 29TH AT 6 P.M.
NYNE BAR & BISTRO



Although this newsletter won't be out until after the latest VoiceOver event is done and over with, I want to say congratulations to the new hosts, Jenny Newell and Matt Greene. You two will do great! I also want to say thank you to Mary Christensen and Leah Butterwick for being amazing hosts over the last year. You two poured hardwork and heart into your VoiceOver readings, and it showed.

-Cody Nichter



JONATHAN JOHNSON BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Congratulations, Jonathan on the upcoming publication of your book of poems, *May Is an Island* by Carnegie Mellon University Press, which will most likely be available in 2018.



CODY SMITH CHAPBOOK PUBLISHED

Congratulations, Cody on the publication of your chapbook, *Delta Summers*, with Yellow Flag Press. Also, Congrats on getting three poems published in the anthology *Burden/Boom: Writings on Inheritance*.



TAYLOR KENSEL ACCEPTED TO CONFERENCE

Congratulations, Taylor on your acceptance to the Southampton Writing Conference at Stony Brook Southampton this July!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hey all,

Spring is always the hardest time of the year for me to stay motivated and get stuff done. When I'm sitting at my desk writing or reading and I can see the sun shining down, I really don't want to be inside. I want to be outside enjoying the heat, the blue sky, and the green I forgot existed during the winter. The smell of flowers and freshly cut grass.

I know that I'm not the only person that has this struggle. I'm sure that every one of us in the program has felt this way at some point, and it is amplified by our desire for a break, and in the case of the second years, a desire to not have to work on thesis anymore.

What I suggest is that we take our work outside with us. There is no reason that we can't enjoy the nice weather while we read and write. Go to your favorite coffee shop, bakery, or park. Soak up some vitamin D and get things done. We will be able to actually relax soon.

Lastly, before I wrap this up, I want to let all of the second years know that you have made my first year better than I could have imagined. You made me feel welcome when I first arrived last August. You should me what Spokane had to offer, and you all became the first friends I had here. I think we all come to improve our writing, but I think we stay because of the community. I will miss you all, and I look forward to meeting and welcoming all the incoming first years.

Cheers, 

Cody Nichter



Friday, May 5 - 6:00p.m.
Reading by Erin Pringle

Tuesday, May 9 - 7 p.m.
Reading by Laura McBride

Friday, May 12 - 7 p.m.
Reading with Jeremiah
Webster

**Thursday, May 16 - 6
p.m.**
Reading with Micheal Fry

**Saturday, May 20 - 1:30
p.m.**
Signing with Jeffery
Warren

**Saturday, May 20 - 7
p.m.**
Reading with John Lawton

**Wednesday, May 24 - 7
p.m.**
Reading with J. Robert
Lennon, Leyna Krow, and
Shawn Vestal

DEAR SECOND YEAR

DEAR SECOND YEAR

A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Second Year,

What misconceptions did you have about thesis and what is the reality?

- First Year

Dear First Year,

I think we form a lot of fears about thesis the closer we get to our second year. Of course, a lot of those fears are based around rumors or horror stories that have trickled down from past classes, and/or are birthed from our own anxieties. We have all suffered from some level of imposter syndrome, and at times, we all worry that our writing just isn't good enough. You're not alone on your thesis journey, remember that. The MFA is a community. I think it's easy to believe that working on your thesis is a total solitary process, and it's easy, at least for me, to fall into that....to isolate myself with nothing but Word docs. glaring at me. At maybe that works for some people, and sometimes you really do need to just get work done by yourself in your living room. But don't think you can't confide in or vent to others, or that you can't meet once a week to write with your friends, or to show people your writing outside of workshop. For me, cutting myself completely off from others for a long period of time has actually hurt my writing process. I get cabin fever, I get all sorts of jittery and anxious, my depression gets worse, and I get all the closer to burning out. There's, of course, another hand to this. Don't think you have to perfectly balance a social life with thesis (and all your other responsibilities). You're going to have to turn down invites, you're going to have to leave something early....just try not to do it a 100% of the time. Okay, I'm going to say this in layman's terms....try to sort your priorities, and try to allow yourself breaks. When I started my second year I thought I was going to have to work pretty much nonstop. And yeah, it feels like that sometimes, but I have also recently discovered how just taking a break for a week...from pretty much everything....can help avoid burn out. I know this is easier said than done, but try not to push your limits too far to the point where it's detrimental to your work and to your health. I think another thing to keep in mind is that your thesis advisor is not out to get you, though it may feel like they are when they point out all of the weak spots/flaws in a piece you were positive was done. Your advisor really does want you to succeed and to have a strong manuscript and to pass your defense. They wouldn't agree to take you on as an advisee otherwise. They are pushing you and giving you hard love because they know you have promise and talent. Even if you do get asked to take an extra quarter before defending, it's not because your work is hated, but because they want you to do the best you can during your defense, and that they can tell your writing is growing/improving, that extra time is beneficial to your work or to even to your health. The MFA faculty really do have your best interests at heart. Best of luck next year! I have faith in you!

Sincerely,

- A Second Year



CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

The Tishman Review

Deadline: Rolling.

The Tishman Review is reading for our Spring 2017 issue. We're looking for smart, engaging, and well-crafted poetry, fiction, essays, visual art, and craft talk articles. Craft Talk has moved from our website to inside our journal and will feature interviews, reviews, and craft essays. We pay our contributors. We charge submission fees but host fee-free days every reading period. Our editors remain committed to being open to what our contributors wish to express, rather than imposing an agenda or theme, making each issue a surprise and delight to not only ourselves but our readers and contributors. www.thetishmanreview.com

Michigan Quarterly Review

Deadline: Rolling.

Beginning in March, Michigan Quarterly Review began accepting electronic submissions through Submittable. We will continue to accept paper submissions as well. Please check out our website for submission guidelines and to explore MQR's wide-ranging collection of essays, personal non-fiction, interviews, fiction, poetry, and book reviews designed for the intellectually adventurous. www.michiganquarterlyreview.com

Gris-Gris

Deadline: Rolling.

Gris-Gris, an online journal from Nicholls State University in Thi-

bodaux, Louisiana, has published works by Pulitzer Prize winners and Pushcart nominees. We invite submissions of literary poetry, fiction, and nonfiction from emerging and established writers. We are open to all styles and subjects. Send three to five poems, one story of no more than 7,000 words, or up to three pieces of flash fiction of no more than 500 words each. For full submission guidelines, visit our website: www.nicholls.edu/gris-gris/submission-policy/.

Arroyo Literary Review

Deadline: May 31.

Arroyo Literary Review is an award-winning national magazine with a West Coast orientation. We are seeking fiction, flash fiction, poetry, essays, and translation for our 10th issue. No e-mail submissions. Please see our website for submission guidelines: www.arroyoliteraryreview.com.

Dear America: An Edited Collection on Race

Deadline: July 31.

Dear America: An Edited Collection on Race. The Geeky Press is seeking narrative essay, creative nonfiction, script, photo, and poetry submissions for an edited book titled Dear America: Reflections on Race. We want personal reflections from people who come from diverse backgrounds and want to share their American story. Guidelines: www.thegeekypress.com/race.

The Timberline Review

Deadline: October 31.

The Timberline Review, a new

semi-annual literary journal based in Portland, Oregon, is looking for brave new words to put on the page. We want short fiction, poetry, essays, and creative nonfiction. Submission period open July 1 to October 31 for Winter/Spring (publication date February 1), and January 1 to April 30 for Summer/Fall (publication date August 1). Looking for emerging and established writers with strong voices and strong ideas. Visit timberlinereview.com/submissions/ for more information.

COMPETITIONS

Midway Journal Flash Contest

Deadline: May 31.

Enter 1000 Below, Midway Journal's new, annual flash prose and poetry contest. Michael Martone will judge: \$500 grand prize, \$250 second prize, \$10 entry fee. Unlimited entries. For more details, go to midwayjournal.com.

The MacGuffin's Poet Hunt Contest

Deadline: June 3.

Naomi Shihab Nye will serve as guest judge of The MacGuffin's Poet Hunt Contest. One first prize winner will receive \$500 and publication in the Fall 2017 issue. Send 3 poems with a \$15 entry fee to 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, MI 48152. Fee includes 1 free issue. Full guidelines: www.schoolcraft.edu/macguffin.

Swan Scythe Press Poetry Chapbook Contest

Deadline: June 15.

Swan Scythe Press, founded by poet Sandra McPherson in 2000, announces its 2017 poetry chapbook contest. Entry fee: \$18. Winner receives \$200 and 25 perfect-bound chapbooks. The 2016 winner is Lisa Dominguez Abraham for *Mata Hari Blows a Kiss*. For full guidelines, visit www.swanscythepress.com and swanscythepress.submittable.com/submit.

Bellevue Literary Review

Deadline: July 1.

Bellevue Literary Review's annual prizes recognize exceptional writing about health, healing, illness, the body, and the mind. \$1,000 Poetry Prize (judge: Rachel Hadas), \$1,000 Nonfiction Prize (judge: Rivka Galchen), \$1,000 Fiction Prize (judge: TBA). Entry fee \$20 (\$30 includes subscription). Submit online: www.blreview.org.

Comstock Review's Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Award single poem contest

Deadline: July 1.

Comstock Review's Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Award single poem contest invites submissions. Ellen Bass, final judge. First Prize \$1,000 (others \$250, \$100). Check website for complete rules for all entries, U.S. mail or online. No simultaneous submissions, previous print or electronic publication. Entry fee \$5 per poem, 40 lines max, U.S. mail. Extra fee for online submissions. www.comstockreview.org. Address: Comstock Review Contest, 4956 St. John Dr., Syracuse, NY 13215. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/comstockreview/186488898068352?ref=ts-219>.

Patricia Dobler Poetry Award 2017

Deadline: October 2.

Patricia Dobler Poetry Award 2017: Open to women writers over the age of 40 living in the U.S. who haven't published a full-length book of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction (chapbooks excluded). Winner receives \$1,000; publication in *Voices from the Attic*; round-trip travel, lodging and reading at Carlow University in Pittsburgh with final judge. Poems must be unpublished, up to 75 lines; up to 2 poems, any style, per submission (\$20 fee). Phone: (412) 578-6346. E-mail: sewilliams412@carlow.edu. For complete rules, visit: www.carlow.edu.

