

# MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Creative Writing Program

Newsletter... May... 2018.....



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## New Internship Leaders for 2018-19

### Taylor Waring

I'm from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, but I was born in Neenah, Wisconsin, and raised in Menasha and Kaukauna, Wisconsin. I started writing lyrics to songs that didn't exist when I was young, but not poems, because obviously poems are lame. Somehow, I made it to college where I studied, to no one's surprise, music (until I realized I need to read sheet music), philosophy (until I realized analytic philosophy is super boring), and eventually english lit. In my last semester of college, I started writing poetry, which spiritually sustained me through the next several years of general debauchery. Eventually, I got sick of the burnout, rocker lifestyle (not really), which worked out nicely, because I finally got into grad school. I've been releasing my own poetry and music for a while, so I was stoked to learn about **Willow Springs Books**. I'm looking forward to making all the books over the next year.

### Leona Vander Molen

is your soon-to-be managing editor of **Willow Springs Magazine**. She looks forward to your continual involvement in and dedication to this world class magazine. Leona was 9 lbs when she was born, and had at least 6 fingers. Her work has been published in Punch Drunk Press and the Lilac City Fairy Tales Anthology among others.



Leona



Kailee

### Kailee Haong

Hi, all! I'm looking forward to being your next **Get Lit!** Assistant Coordinator. In this new position, my biggest goal is to continue Get Lit!'s current path in bringing new and diverse, and marginalized voices to Spokane. Kate's done a great job with that this year, and I'm excited to see its potential for the following year. Keep up the enthusiasm and I'm looking forward to working with you all in 2019. Here is my bio:

Kailee Haong is a queer woman of color who primarily writes fiction. She is a current student at Eastern Washington University's MFA program in Creative Writing. She always strives to write from, for, and with marginalized perspectives.

### Clare Wilson

is honored to take on the role of **WITC Director** for the 2018-19 school year. She has much to live up to as she follows in the footsteps of the previous director, Jenny Catlin. As someone from a background of working with high school and college students to improve their academic and creative writing, Clare believes WITC's mission of promoting voices from underserved communities is crucial to the Spokane community. The written word has always been her passion, and she looks forward to sharing that passion with an even broader community of writers than she has yet encountered. In the meantime, she will continue her efforts to perfect her fiction, while simultaneously becoming an expert in that curious exercise in humility which submission to literary journals often proves to be.



Clare



Taylor



# Program Cheers and More

## Published!!

### Tanya DeBuff Walette

Congratulations Tanya! (MFA student 2011) for your forthcoming essay, *Adeline*, at **thesame.blog**, an online literary journal by women...for women.

### Sunni Brown Wilkinson

Congratulations Sunni! (MFA 2003) for your first book, *The Marriage of the Moon and the Field*, forthcoming from **Black Lawrence Press** in the summer of 2019.

### Kerry Rutherford

Congratulations Kerry! (Current MFA) for the essay, *Pithy Darkness*, published at **RazorLit.com** coming in May, Issue 5.

## 3rd Thursday-Save the Date

Third Thursday Panel Event will be May 17th. Topic is grants, fellowships, conferences, PhD programs. Exact time & panel members TBD...watch for the email!

## Writers' Center News

Writers' Center info for MFA students from Lauren Hohle:

Hey everyone! I recently started working as a Responder in the EWU Writers' Center, and I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone that it's a resource for writers of all levels, not just struggling comp students. If you you're feeling thesis stress, stuck in revision, or want someone to look over a piece before submitting it to magazines, don't hesitate to schedule an appointment. We'd love to have you!

The Writers' Center has two locations. One is in the JFK Library on the Cheney campus, and the other is at the Spokane Riverpoint Campus right next to the MFA intern office. The Cheney location is open 9-6, but Riverpoint hours vary. Students can schedule appointments online through the website:

<https://access.ewu.edu/writers-center>.



## VoiceOver May

Join us at Lindaman's

Saturday, May 19th at 7:00 PM

Lindaman's Bistro

1235 South Grand Blvd

## Aunties Events

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

Dorje Dolma: *Yak Girl*

**Thursday, May 3- 7:00pm to 8:30 p.m.**

Paul Lindholdt: *The Spokane River*

**Wednesday, May 9- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Chris Crutcher: *Losers Bracket*

**Saturday, May 26- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Signing: Elizabeth Kissling's "From a Whisper to a Shout"



# Letter from the Editor

Dear MFA People!

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over: second years are getting ready to defend and first years have to choose a thesis advisor. The Get Lit! Festival is over and was a resounding success, not to mention the amazing weather that descended on us all for most of it. I didn't have the energy to go to all the events on my wish list, but can say from personal experience that these ones rocked: Too Legit to Quit (the opening event at the downtown Library, the poetry workshop led by the amazingly gifted Hanif Abdurraqib at Auntie's Bookstore, and the amazing Anne Lamott at the Bing. Big thanks to Kate Peterson, Jameson Newell and all the rest of the staff and volunteers of Get Lit! See the last page in this newsletter for some random pictures from Get Lit!

I consider myself fortunate to have attended every one of the amazing VoiceOver events this year and have to say that they are the highlight of each month and they keep getting better. Be sure to come out on May 19th as Genevieve and Nate host the final one of the year. Also don't miss the information-packed Third Thursday Panel event. Check the announcement in this newsletter for details.

I have to admit that I have very little knowledge or skill with InDesign, so instead of making this newsletter amazingly creative, with a new look, I've had to be OK with cutting and pasting and winging it. But I plan to learn and experiment more so that next year's newsletters will have a fresh, new look. To that end, if anyone out there in MFA-land is an InDesign expert, and could spare an hour or two sometime in May, I'd love a few tips.

Finally, if anyone has publishing, announcements or kudos we should note in the June issue, please email me at: [kerryrutherford6@gmail.com](mailto:kerryrutherford6@gmail.com)

Thanks for your support,

*Kerry*

Kerry Rutherford



# Visiting Writers Series

## Laura Kasischke: May 11th

**Laura Kasischke** (pronounced Ka-ZISS-kee) was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is the recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, 2012. She has published nine novels, three of which have been made into feature films—*The Life Before Her Eyes*, *Suspicious River*, *White Bird in a Blizzard*—and eight books of poetry, most recently *Space, in Chains*. Her newest poetry collection, *Where Now: New & Selected Poems*, was published in 2017, by Copper Canyon Press. She has also published the short story collection *If a Stranger Approaches You*. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as several Pushcart Prizes and numerous poetry awards and her writing has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Harper's* and *The New Republic*. She has a son and step-daughter and lives with her family and husband in Chelsea, Michigan. She is Allan Seager Collegiate Professor of English Language & Literature at the University of Michigan.



Reading May 11th, 2018,

## Daniel Orozco: May 4th

We are happy to announce that Daniel Orozco has been added to our Visiting Writers Series.

Watch your email inbox for details of workshop and/or reading.



## From the Archives: Dear 2nd year letter from May 2015!

*Dear Second Year,*

*How's that thesis coming? I'm tempted to ask about your reading list and defense strategies, but I'm sure you're tired of talking, thinking, stressing about it. Instead, I'll ask a question that might be easier (or at least more fun) to answer. What did you gain from the MFA experience that you didn't expect when you got here? I assume your writing has improved in many ways, but what skills/experiences did you gain aside from the obvious? Do you find it easier to steal techniques from other writers and make them your own? Did you "find your voice" as my undergrad professors promised would happen at an MFA? Or maybe you can write for hours on end, into the depths of the night, whereas a year ago you were maybe like myself and could only write for like two hours, max? Tell me your secrets.*

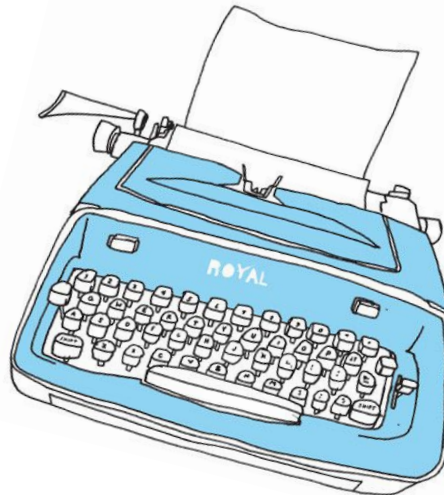
*Sincerely,*

*Your First Year Friend*

Dear First Year Friend,

First, don't ask me for another month. You'll know soon enough what this feels like. Second, something I hoped I would learn is the business side of the publishing industry. I learned how selling a fiction manuscript is different from selling a nonfiction or poetry manuscript mostly from listening to the visiting writers and from listening to some of our professors. I think it is useful for writers to know the business of publishing so we know how to act when we get to that stage. I encourage you to ask your professors how to pitch a manuscript or a piece to a magazine or a newspaper. Our faculty members have a lot of practical knowledge about how the writing world works. Ask them to tell you. Similarly, I've learned to think about writing as a business and not just as a creative pursuit, which is necessary if you want to earn money doing this. I've gotten better at recognizing authors' techniques to steal but I wouldn't say I know fully how to implement what I learned yet. That, I think, will be a life-long process. I learned, too, how to recognize when something isn't working and what specifically is wrong with a piece. That's one of the better skills I got from workshop and thesis meetings. If you are a writer pursuing writing, you've already found your voice. This degree is just teaching you how to use it. Most of us got started writing bad poems and derivative stories deep into the hours of the night and if that's your pattern, that probably won't change. But I did learn to work better under pressure and for a deadline at any hour of the day and that will be very useful in the outside world.

Good luck with your second year. It's a tough ride but it's worth it.



# Opportunities for Submission

## Scablands Books

Submissions are open for *Evergreen: Fairy Tales, Essays, and Fables from the Dark Northwest*.

Deadline: September 15, 2018 via Submittable

The woods of our region are dark and shadowy, sparse and dry in the Inland Northwest and dense and damp near the Pacific. Our regional history—then and now—also encompasses menacing darkness and shadows, and so do our narratives. For EVERGREEN, we're searching for stories, poems, essays, and comics that surprise us, move us, and reassemble us as residents of this sylvan place. Poetry and prose set in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington State, or Wyoming are encouraged; we want writers from these areas, as well. Pieces can be any length (please note we do love flash fiction/microfiction/experimental work); they can be previously published. They do not need to be a traditional fairy tale or tall tale to be considered, but do consider the exaggerated forms of such writing (and of the Northwest region) while honing your work. Poets can send up to three poems at a time. Try to keep prose pieces to 4,000 words or less, please (not a hard and fast rule). For all writers, please include a bio with your entry. We will pay writers in two contributor's copies, but the writer retains full rights to their own work. We are looking for the finest writing in the Northwest, so make sure to send us your best polished work.

[Scablandsbooks.org](http://Scablandsbooks.org)

## AGNI Review

Deadline: May 31, 2018

No fee to submit, they pay for work they publish.

AGNI publishes poetry, short fiction, and essays. Writers whose work has appeared in the magazine include Derek Walcott, Louise Glück, David Foster Wallace, Seamus Heaney, Jhumpa Lahiri, Ha Jin, Olga Broumas, Tom Sleigh, Jill McCorkle, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Gail Mazur, Noam Chomsky, Ilan Stavans, and Rosanna Warren. AGNI regularly features emerging writers and "among readers around the world . . . is known for publishing important new writers early in their careers, many of them translated into English for the first time" (PEN American Center). Submit through their online portal or via snail mail.

Detailed submission guidelines are here:

<http://www.bu.edu/agni/submit.html>

## Gemini Magazine

Submission period: 365 days per year

Payment: \$10 per published piece

We welcome all writers. Since 2009 we have paid writers of many different stripes more than \$26,000 overall, including prize money. We have no rules or restrictions on writing style or content. As jazz great Charlie "Bird" Parker pointed out, "There's no boundary line to art." We don't want to set any boundaries so we use a clean, simple selection process: If it strikes a chord with us we print it.

Guidelines and ways to submit:

<http://gemini-magazine.com>

## Virginia Quarterly Review

We read unsolicited fiction, poetry, and nonfiction submissions July 1-31

VQR strives to publish the best writing we can find. While we have a long history of publishing accomplished and award-winning authors, we also seek and support emerging writers. A look at one of our latest issues will show you the diversity of voices we publish. The Virginia Quarterly Review is a publication of the Center for Media and Citizenship at the University of Virginia, and is published quarterly in Charlottesville, Virginia. VQR publishes poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

Extensive guidelines:

[www.vqronline.org/about-vqr/submissions](http://www.vqronline.org/about-vqr/submissions)



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



Get Lit! 2018

