

# INLAND NORTHWEST CENTER FOR WRITERS CREATIVE WRITING MFA PROGRAM AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2016



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Program Cheers and Celebrations (page 2)
- Letter from the Editor (page 2)
- November's Event Bulletin: What's going on with our friends at Aunties (page 3)
- Dear Second Year: An advice column (page 3)
- Opportunities: A list compiled by Natalie Kusz (pages 4-5)

## VISITING WRITER: JOE WILKINS

NOV. 11<sup>TH</sup> 7:30 P.M. @ AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE



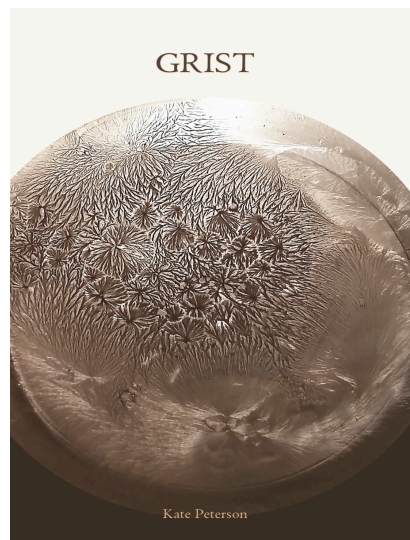
As part of EWU's Visiting Writer's Series and GetLit! come listen to writer Joe Wilkins as he reads at Auntie's Bookstore on Friday November 11th.

Joe Wilkins is the author of a memoir, *The Mountain and the Fathers: Growing up on the Big Dry*, winner of a 2014 GLCA New Writers Award, and two collections of poems,

*Notes from the Journey Westward* and *Killing the Murnion Dogs*. His third full-length collection, *When We Were Birds*, part of the Miller Williams Poetry Prize Series edited by Billy Collins, was released in the spring of 2016 with the University of Arkansas Press. He will be reading from selected works followed by a brief Q&A session and book signing.

## GRIST: POETRY READING

NOV. 18<sup>TH</sup>, 7 P.M. @ AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE



EWU alum Kate Peterson will be reading from her chapbook *Grist* on Friday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. *Grist* is the winner of the Floating Bridge Chapbook Prize.

Kate will be joined by poets: Laura Read, Nance Van Winkle, and Maya Jewell Zeller.

Please join us as we celebrate Kate's fantastic accomplishment.



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

I would like to remind you all that our program is lucky enough to be in a city with a blossoming art scene, one that seems especially kind to the writing community.

Spokane has more artsy events than I can list on the front page or in the Auntie's Bookstore column (they also have more events on their site calendar than I list).

I do want to highlight some other local happenings here:

Our own Willow Springs Books will be hosting a **Rat Book Launch Party on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the Faculty Commons Building on the Cheney campus.**

Readers will include Rachel Toor, Dorianne Laux, Joseph Miller, and others. Refreshments will be provided.

Spark Central will be holding a **salon-style poetry reading** with Zachary Schomburg, Brandi Herrera, and local poets (including alum) on **Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Spark Center.**

Please remember to like Spark Central on Facebook to keep up to date on workshops, readings, silent reading/writing parties, and other artsy events.

If there is a writing or literary event you would like me to advertise in an upcoming newsletter, feel free to email me at [mleuna@hotmail.com](mailto:mleuna@hotmail.com).

Thank you,  
-Mary Christensen

## PROGRAM CHEERS & CELEBRATIONS



### MELISSA HUGGINS

#### CAREER CONGRATULATIONS

Fiction alum Melissa Huggins has been EWU's fearless GetLit! director for five years, and the reason the GetLit! Festival is such a success. We are both happy and sad to say Melissa will be leaving campus in December to start her new role as the Executive Director of Spokane Arts. Congrats, Melissa! You will be greatly missed!!

### KIM KENT

#### POETRY PUBLISHED

Second year poet Kim Kent's poems *You Will Not Win the Jackpot*, *Never Seen*, *Elegy*, and *Company* were finalists for The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry. The poems will be published in *Nimrod Magazine*. Very impressive Kim and well deserved! Be sure to congratulate her!



### CODY SMITH

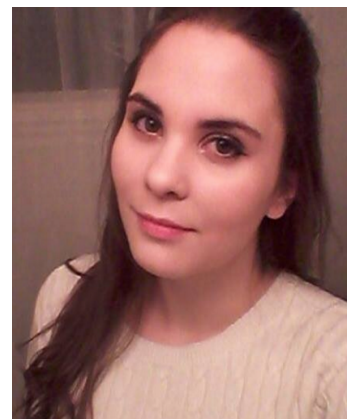
#### POETRY PUBLISHED

Talented second year poet Cody Smith's poem *Eating Fried Chicken at Uncle Albert's* is forthcoming in *Pisgah Review*. Congrats, Cody!

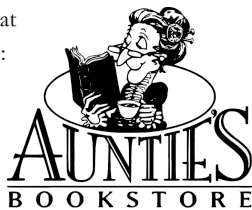
### VIRGINIA THOMAS

#### POETRY PUBLISHED

Second year poet Virginia Thomas's poem *To Ribbons* has been accepted by *Glassworks Magazine* for their spring 2017 issue. Way to go, Virginia!



From our  
friends at  
Aunties:



**Fri., Nov. 11 –  
7:30 p.m.**

Join EWU Visiting Writer Joe Wilkins as he reads selected work

**Thurs., Nov. 17 –  
7 p.m.**

Courage for Our Time: A Panel Discussion Exploring Social Justice in Spokane

**Fri., Nov. 18 –  
7 p.m.**

Join alum Kate Peterson as she read from her new chapbook *Grist*. She will be joined by other local poets

**Sat., Nov. 19 –  
1:30 p.m.**

Lisa Langelier will be signing copies of her nonfiction book *The Wild Eye: Field Notes from a Wildlife Refuge*

**Sat., Nov. 26 –  
1:30 p.m.**

Lester Jay Ames will sign copies of his memoir *Happiness is Life*

**Wed., Nov. 30–  
7 p.m.**

Come listen to Ed Skoog as he reads from his new book of poetry

# DEAR SECOND YEAR

## A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

How would you suggest handling feeling burnt-out on writing? To clarify, I don't mean writers' block, but the exhaustion that can hit around this time of the quarter when it feels like a legion of things have piled on you and your writing kind of shifts to the back-burner.

Sincerely,  
Burned Out

Dear Burned Out,

As we get to this point in every quarter, we all feel the crush of homework, teaching, reading, trying to sleep and eat, and of course our nightly ritual Netflix. Where does our writing fit into this shuffle of graduate school? I have some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that you signed up for two years of writing. You signed up to be an apprentice writer working under trained teachers who are here to guide us to our potential. The bad news is that you've just got to do it. The hardest part about writing is...writing. Sometimes the only thing to do is make the time, put your head down, and put words on the page. We really don't have any other way of doing it, no magic potion or incantation that will allow our pieces to magically pop out of our printers ready for workshop. That being said, here are a few tricks that I use:

- **Schedule it in.** Put it in your planner, your google calendar, it doesn't matter. If you have to wake up an hour early to get your writing practice in, stop drinking so late at night and wake up. This is your priority! This month is nanowrimo. You can use this for far more than your novel. Use it as motivation to write 50 poems or 50000 words of essays or short stories. Anything that helps you write more is welcome.
- **Accountability:** have your spouse, partner, pet, friend, walk around with a note pinned to their collar telling you when you should be writing. I have a friend who texts me every few days to make sure that I have pages ready for my advisor.
- **Puke Drafts:** Remember the wise Anne Lamott when she talked about shitty first drafts? Maybe part of your problem is that you are trying to make every draft perfect. Stop it! Draft then revise. Draft then revise. If you try to make every draft perfect the first time, you will end up insane. My friends and I call them puke drafts. You have to have one to mine the gold from.
- **Rewards:** Is there a certain beer you like or maybe there is a book or journal you have been eyeing. Give yourself rewards for making your wordcount.
- **Consistency:** If you have a writing routine, you are more likely to write more. Scientifically it takes two weeks to make a habit. If you write every day for two weeks, you will have a habit down and will feel out of sorts when you try to go a day without writing.
- **Sit your butt in the chair:** Again, I am not trying to be harsh or mean, but sitting your butt in a chair, near a tree stump, in the grass, at a coffee shop is the only way for your to get the writing done. It takes hard work and discipline to be a writer. You can have the best story ideas, the most fancy language, and the best grasp of grammar ever, but if you don't put stuff down on the page, you are not a writer. To be a writer, you must write!

I hope this helps. Don't forget to sleep, hydrate, pet a puppy (Phillip is terribly amenable to this), eat a leafy green veggie, and hug a friend. In graduate school everyone wants a piece of you, but you are here to write first. If it were easy, everyone would do it.

Best, Your caring, exhausted, writing-every-day second year.





# OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

- **Deadline: November 30, 2016**  
*Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction* is now accepting **essay** submissions for the open reading period. Go to [fourthgenre.submittable.com](http://fourthgenre.submittable.com). Detailed submission guidelines available at [fourthgenre.msu.edu](http://fourthgenre.msu.edu).
- **Deadline: December 1.**  
*Bellingham Review* announces a call for general submissions in **poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction**, and hybrid works. Online submissions only via Submittable; \$3 reading fee. For those readers who subscribe to the journal between September and December, we will read submissions through June 1. Contributors receive a complimentary copy and 2 gift subscriptions. Complete guidelines at [bhreview.org](http://bhreview.org).
- **Deadline: December 1.**  
*Bryant Literary Review*, a journal of **poetry and fiction**, seeks quality submissions for its May 2017 issue. Work may be of any style or subject matter. See poetry samples at [www.bryantliteraryreview.com](http://www.bryantliteraryreview.com). Deadline: December 1. Send submission with cover letter, brief bio, and SASE to: Bryant Literary Review, Faculty Suite F, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI 02917.

- **Deadline: December 1.**  
*Clockhouse*, published in partnership with Goddard College, seeks submissions for its 2017 issue. The 2016 issue includes works by Samiya Bashir, Lucas de Lima, Eunsong Angela Kim, and Robin Black, among terrific new voices. Deadline: December 1. For submission guidelines and mission statement, visit [www.clockhouse.net](http://www.clockhouse.net).
- **Deadline: December 1.**  
*Front Range Review* seeks literary **short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction** for its 18th annual issue. Send all correspondence to: Blair Oliver, Faculty Advisor, Front Range Review, FRCC, 4616 S. Shields, Ft. Collins, CO 80526. For guidelines, see our website: [www.frontrange.edu/frontrangereview](http://www.frontrange.edu/frontrangereview).
- **Deadline: December 15.**  
*Glassworks* magazine seeks **poetry, fiction, nonfiction, craft essays**, and art/photography for upcoming print issues. Contributor copies provided. Reading period open until December 15. Also seeking flash fiction, prose poetry, and micro essays for publication in Flash Glass, our online feature. Read guidelines and submit at: <http://www.rowanglassworks.org>.

## COMPETITIONS

- **Deadline: November 30.**  
The theme for *The Baltimore Review's* winter contest is "Milestones." Why? *The Baltimore Review* is celebrating 20 years of publishing! A mighty milestone for us. Now we want to hear about other milestones. You can use the theme in any way you'd like. Submit your **poems, short stories, and creative nonfiction** online to our Submittable Contest category. Three winners will be selected from among all entries. All submissions considered for publication. Prizes are \$500, \$200, and \$100. Entry fee is \$10. Final judge: Lia Purpura. Deadline is November 30. Visit us at [www.baltimorereview.org](http://www.baltimorereview.org) to learn more.
- **Deadline: December 1.**  
*The Fiddlehead's* 26th Annual Literary Contest. Two categories: **poetry and short fiction**. Prizes in each category: \$2000 CAD for winner + publication payment and \$250 CAD for 2 honourable mentions + publication payment. Winning entries published in *The Fiddlehead* 271 (Spring 2017). No simultaneous submissions and no previously published works. Short fiction submission: 1 story (6,000 words max). Poetry submission: 3 poems max, no more than 100 lines per poem. An entry consists of one submission in one genre. Entry Fee: \$30 in Canada and \$36 elsewhere. Includes one-year



# OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

subscription to *The Fiddlehead*. Complete details at [thefiddlehead.ca/contest](http://thefiddlehead.ca/contest).

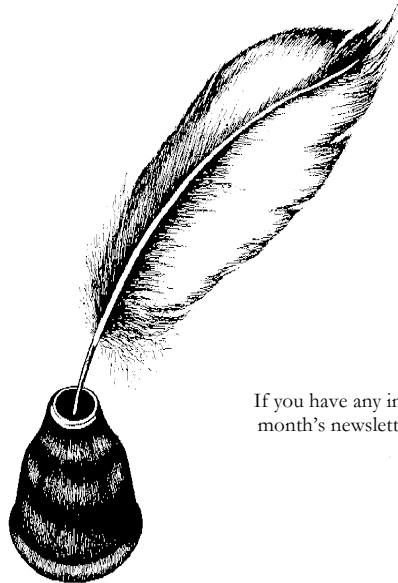
- **Deadline: December 12.** *Creative Nonfiction* magazine is seeking new work for an upcoming issue dedicated to “The Dialogue Between Science & Religion.” Send your best work, 4,000 words or fewer. Deadline: December 12. Prizes: \$10,000 for best **essay**; \$5,000 for runner-up. Guidelines at [www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions](http://www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions).

## MISCELLANEOUS OPPORTUNITIES

- **Andrews Forest Writer’s Residency**  
**Application Deadline: December 1.**  
The Spring Creek Project offers one- to two-week residencies to **poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers** in

March, April, and May at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in the Oregon Cascades, 40 miles east of Eugene. The residency is open to writers whose work “reflects a keen awareness of the natural world.” Residents are provided with a private apartment, which includes kitchen facilities, access to the forest research site, and a \$250 stipend. Submit up to 10 pages of poetry or 15 pages of prose, a one-page project description, and a curriculum vitae by December 1. There is no application fee. Visit the website for an application and complete guidelines: [liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/centers-and-initiatives/spring-creek-project](http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/centers-and-initiatives/spring-creek-project); [spring.creek@oregonstate.edu](mailto:spring.creek@oregonstate.edu)  
Andrews Forest Writers’ Residency, Oregon State University, Spring Creek Project, School of History, Religion, and Philosophy, 322 Milam Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331. Carly Lettero, Program Director.

- **Baltic Writing Residency in Sweden**  
**Application Deadline: December 15.**  
The Baltic Writing Residency in Sweden offers a monthlong summer residency to a **poet, fiction writer, or creative nonfiction writer** at a furnished cottage in Stockholm, Sweden. The resident is provided with private lodging and a \$1,000 stipend. Travel expenses and meals are not included. Using the online application system, submit 10 pages of poetry or 20 pages of prose, a curriculum vitae including a list of published work, and contact information for two references with a \$25 application fee. E-mail or visit the website for complete guidelines. [balticresidency@gmail.com](mailto:balticresidency@gmail.com) [www.balticresidency.com](http://www.balticresidency.com)  
Baltic Writing Residency in Sweden, 831 Mulberry Street, Louisville, KY 40217. Adam Day and Michael Estes, Coordinators.



If you have any information you would like to see in next month’s newsletter please email Mary Christensen at [mleauna@hotmail.com](mailto:mleauna@hotmail.com)