MFA alum ('07) **Shawna Kenney**’s memoir *I Was a Teenage Dominatrix* will be adapted into a television series on FX Network, produced by Vince Vaughn.

She also has an essay appearing in the forthcoming anthology *Madonna and Me: Women Writers on the Queen of Pop* (Soft Skull Press).

Congratulations, Shawna!

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Philip Gerard has been named the recipient of the 2012 **Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award**, presented by St. Andrews University in Laurinburg. Created in 1981 to honor Samuel Talmadge Ragan (1915–1996), N.C.’s first Secretary of Cultural Resources and a longtime editor of the Raleigh News & Observer, the award is made annually to one or more persons for outstanding contributions to the fine arts of N.C.

Articles about the award include the [NC Arts Council](http://www.ncarts.org) and the [Wilmington Star-News](http://www.wilmingtonstar.com).

Congratulations, Philip!

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MFA alum ('11) **Ariana Nash** is the winner of a 2011 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Prize. To read the winning poems: [http://www.dorothyprizes.org/](http://www.dorothyprizes.org/)

Congratulations, Ariana!

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MFA student **Jason Newport**’s flash fiction “The Unaccountable” has been accepted for the next issue of *The Nassau Review*.

Congratulations, Jason!
Philip Gerard’s new book *The Patron Saint of Dreams* received a nice review on *Publisher’s Weekly*: “Reading Gerard’s well-crafted first essay collection is like spending time with an easygoing yet erudite uncle, with whom you’re happy to sit around on the front porch on “lazy afternoons...drinking beers and [speculating]" on all manner of personal and historical oddments and occurrences.”

Congratulations, Philip!

David Gessner spoke about his new book, *The Tarball Chronicles*, on NPR’s “Here and Now.” He took issue with the cheery BP commercials that say everything is okay in the Gulf! Here’s the link: [http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2012/01/13/bp-tourism-gulf](http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2012/01/13/bp-tourism-gulf)

Congratulations, David!

Clyde Edgerton’s short play, “Wisdom and Freedom,” opened in Chapel Hill on February 24 at the Ackland Art Museum. It is one of four plays (Daniel Wallace, Marianne Gingher, and Dana Coen are the other playwrights) that will run for two weeks as part of the museum’s “Activate Art” series. Each play is tied to a piece of art in the museum.

Clyde’s musical (with Mike Craver), “Lunch at the Picadilly,” got an off-Broadway reading at the York Theater in New York City on February 22.

Congratulations, Clyde!

MFA alum Daren Dean (’03) was selected as a runner-up in the 2011 Yemassee Short Fiction Contest (judged by Fall 2006 visiting writer George Singleton) for his piece “Bring Your Sorrow Over Here.” It will appear in the Spring 2012 issue. Also, MFA student Rachel Richardson was a finalist for her piece, “Schism”!

Congratulations, Daren and Rachel!
MFA student Erica Sklar’s piece, "A Body In Motion" was accepted for publication in the forthcoming issue of The Master's Review. http://www.masters-review.com/

Congratulations, Erica!

MFA alum William Flowers ('10) has six translations (from French) of poems by Émile Verhaeren (Belgium, 1855-1916) in the 40th Anniversary Issue of Poetry Miscellany. Read them here.

Congratulations, Will!

MFA alum ('00) Claudette Cohen’s short story, “The Mayor of Biscoe,” won first place in fiction at the Southern Writers Symposium. It also made the finalist list for the North Carolina Humanities Council’s Linda Flowers Award. About a veteran who enters an alien world to find his way home, the story has since been made into a screenplay. In addition, a poem of Cohen's, “Telling the Loved Ones,” earned Honorable Mention at the Southern Writers Symposium. Cohen recently also won first place in both poetry and short fiction in the anthology titled Taking Flight: Winston-Salem in Prose and Poetry. Her short story, “Raven’s Wing,” was shortlisted for ZenFri Inc.’s upcoming anthology, Warpaint, and the poem, “Venus,” has been selected for an upcoming anthology titled Testing the Waters. Finally, her short story, “To Step Into The Flood,” recently appeared in Cream City Review.

Congratulations, Claudette!

The February 15 Booklist magazine featured David Gessner’s My Green Manifesto on the cover and chose it as one of the top ten environmental books of 2011.


Congratulations, David!
Lavonne J. Adams gave a presentation titled "The Lure of the Santa Fe Trail" for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on February 6.

In the mid-1800s, covered wagons and clusters of the adventurous began traveling the Santa Fe Trail—a route that stretched from Missouri to New Mexico. What compelled a person to say goodbye to loved ones, to commit to desert dust, threat of disease and unpredictable encounters with Indians? This presentation, a weaving of history and poetry, highlights both the drama and the day-to-day challenges faced in traversing this terrain of buffalo and adobe, of mesquite and mesas.

Congratulations, Lavonne!

MFA alum Carmen Rodrigues ('10) appears in the Publisher’s Weekly Fall 2012 Sneak Previews (under S&S/SIMON PULSE) for her new young adult novel, 34 Pieces of You.

Congratulations, Carmen!

The 2012 Randall Library Flash Fiction contest winners have been announced!

1st Place, Rachel Richardson, Search Party
2nd Place, Michelle E. Crouch, Everything We Know About Her
3rd Place, Blair Callahan, God's Eyebrows

The first and second place winners are MFA students, the third place winner a BFA student. And of course, the honorable mentions, also to be published, are rich with those from our program (please click here for specifics).

Congratulations to all!

Phil Furia hosts the daily segment ‘The Great American Songbook’ on WHQR during the Midday Café, 1:00-2:00pm, and during the Morning Edition on Fridays at 6:00am.
Philip Gerard is a regular commentator on WHQR—listen to his broadcast segments every other Thursday at 7:35a, 8:50a, or 5:45p, or online in the WHQR Thursday Commentaries at http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/whqr/arts.artsmain?action=sectionIndex&sid=15.

Philip Gerard is featured this month in Our State magazine with his next installment of the series “The Civil War: Life in North Carolina.” This rich and complex story will continue monthly through May 2015 and can be read at ourstate.com/civil-war.

“The war magnified the best and the worst of the human spirit and bequeathed us a legacy that, a century and a half later, we still ponder.”