The 2014 UNCW Summer Writers Conference, featuring keynote speaker Jason Mott, will be held June 20-22!

For more information and to register, visit uncw.edu/writersconference.

Sarah Messer has four poems currently up at Newfound Journal; a flash creative nonfiction piece up at the Australian journal, Bumf; and a poem forthcoming in Mead Magazine. Also in May she will have a column, "About a Poem," up in Shambhala Sun in which she talks about Nick Flynn's poem, "Hive."

Sadly for the Department of Creative Writing, Sarah Messer will leave us in May for the green pastures of Michigan. Read the tribute article to Sarah in the Summer 2014 edition of The Coast Line.

Congratulations, and very best wishes, Sarah!

Robert Anthony Siegel’s “Fragments from a Taiwan Notebook,” appears in Research and Reflections, the Journal of Fulbright Taiwan: http://journal.fulbright.org.tw/index.php/browse/essays/item/89-fragments-from-a-taiwan-notebook

Congratulations, Robert!

BFA student Hillora Lang has been accepted for the low-residency MFA program at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier, Vermont. While concentrating primarily on writing young adult novels, she looks forward to honing her skills at writing picture books and middle-grade novels, as well. Hillora will graduate from UNCW in May with a double major in creative writing (fiction track, plus the Certificate in Publishing) and English (literary studies option). She will begin her MFA classes in July.

Congratulations, Hillora!
BFA student Gabrielle Pantalena has been accepted to the master's degree program at University College London. She will begin classes this summer in English: Issues in Modern Culture. At UNCW, Gabby is a double-major in creative writing (fiction) and English (literary studies), with a minor in psychology.

Congratulations, Gabby!

MFA student Bridget Apfeld has two poems, “41 North” and “We Eat” on Verse Wisconsin. Read them at http://versewisconsin.org/issue113/poems/apfeld.html.

Congratulations, Bridget!


Congratulations, Eric!


In his free time, he also got an essay accepted at Black Heart Magazine: http://blackheartmagazine.com/2014/04/18/liking-the-tomato-by-jonathan-russell-clark/.

Congratulations, Jonathan!
Two of MFA student Alexa Doran’s ‘Dada’ poems have been selected as finalists in the Third Coast Poetry Contest.

Congratulations, Alexa!

MFA student Christine Hennessey’s piece “Hatchling” appears in Issue 19 of Switchback, and was also Second Runner Up for the Issue’s Editor Prize. Read it at http://swback.com/issues/019/hatchling/1.html.

Congratulations, Chrissy!


Congratulations, Jason (and Hannah)!

MFA student Erica Sklar’s essay "Identify Yourself" was chosen as a finalist for the Crab Orchard Review's contest.

Congratulations, Erica!

Congratulations, Carson!

MFA student Joe Worthen was shortlisted for the *Master’s Review* this year for his (peer-reviewed!) piece “County Maps”: [https://mastersreview.com/shortlist-2014/](https://mastersreview.com/shortlist-2014/).

Congratulations, Joe!

MFA alum Samantha Deal (‘13) will be attending the PhD program in English & Creative Writing at Western Michigan University next year.

Congratulations, Sam!

MFA alum Regina DiPerna (‘13) has a poem, “Elegy For What Adapts,” in the Spring 2014 issue of *Redivider*, and her poem "Death As Mutation" will appear in the spring issue of *Meridian*.

Congratulations, Regina!
MFA alum Jason Frye ('05) has two books coming out this spring. Avalon Travel (publisher of Rick Steve's Europe guidebooks) will release *Moon North Carolina* in April and *Moon North Carolina Coast* in May. Available through Amazon and in stores nationwide, these travel guides give visitors an insider's look at North Carolina. He is working on a third travel guide, *Moon Road Trips: Blue Ridge Parkway*, set for release in spring 2015.

Congratulations, Jason!

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Congrats again, Ben!

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Congratulations, Rochelle!

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MFA alum ('08) Jason Mott reveals the cover of his second novel, *The Wonder of All Things*, due out this fall.

Congratulations, Jason!
MFA alum (’07) Rebecca Petruck had a book launch party for her debut novel, *Steering Toward Normal*, at Pomegranate Books in May—with two show steers in attendance! In addition to being chosen by the American Booksellers Association as an ‘Indie Introduce New Voices’ selection, *Steering Toward Normal* is a Spring Kids Indie Next List pick for ages 9-12 (http://www.indiebound.org/kids-indie-next-list), and Vanity Fair.com’s Hollywood highlighted it as one of "10 Books We’d Like to See Made Into Films" (http://www.vanityfair.com/vf-hollywood/teen-movie-comeback-ya-books).

Congratulations, Rebecca!

MFA alum (’13) Anna Sutton has poems upcoming in *Quarterly West*, *Superstition Review*, *Pinch Journal*, and *Third Coast Literary Magazine*.

Congratulations, Anna!


Congratulations, Kate!

MFA alum Eric Vrooman (’00) is a fiscal year 2013 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Congratulations, Eric!
The May issue of Wilmington’s *Salt* magazine features a wealth of Creative Writing folks as columnists: faculty members Lavonne Adams, Clyde Edgerton and Virginia Holman, and MFA alums Jason Frye ('05), Dana Sachs ('00), and Barbara Sullivan ('11).

A link to the digital magazine is here: [http://www.saltmagazinenc.com/](http://www.saltmagazinenc.com/).

Phil Furia hosts the daily segment ‘The Great American Songbook’ on WHQR 1:30-2:00pm, 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 [www.whqr.org/people/philip-gerard](http://www.whqr.org/people/philip-gerard).

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](http://ourstate.com/civil-war). Listen to an interview about the series [here](http://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.”