North Carolina Sorosis Award

Each year, the North Carolina Sorosis, a women’s civic organization, honors a writer by giving a $500 scholarship in that writer’s name to one of UNCW’s undergraduate students chosen by creative writing faculty members.

This year, Christine York received the award, named in honor of Wilmington author Celia Rivenbark. York is also the recipient of the Chancellor’s Achievement Award four out of the five semesters she has been enrolled for at UNCW, and

The Jesse Rice-Evans Creative Writing Scholarship

The Creative Writing Department thanks donors Mark Griffis and Dave Robertson for creating the department’s first scholarship, named in honor of Jesse Rice-Evans.

Still in her teenage years, not yet a high school graduate, Jesse was selected to attend the North Carolina Governor’s School. She is a true humanitarian, often taking risks speaking out and continuing to stand for what is good in our world. Her dedication and perseverance serve as inspiration for this endowment.

This $2,200 scholarship will be awarded to a rising senior in the Department of Creative Writing for the first time in 2007. The scholarship will be used to provide financial support up to the cost of tuition, fees and books as funding permits. In order to be eligible, the recipient must be registered for twelve or more credit hours. Because it is a merit scholarship, it is also

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Changing of the Guard: A new chair for the CRW Department

The Department of Creative Writing held its first election of a new chair in January of 2007. Two members of the faculty, Wendy Brenner and Philip Gerard, agreed to stand for the office and prepared written statements of their vision of the department’s future. They each met with the faculty, MFA students, and CAS Dean David Cordle, as well as with current chair Phil Furia.

After a secret ballot, the department recommended that Philip Gerard be named chair, and Dean Cordle concurred with that recommendation. In his message to the department, Dean Cordle described Gerard as

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Congratulations to the following UNCW students in both the MFA and BFA programs for their recent publications and presentations.

Kristin Cole presented a paper at the National Council of Teachers of English in November 2006.

Ashley Hudson was a finalist in the Washington Square Review 2006 Poetry Contest judged by Nick Flynn. She also won the Columbia Journal’s 2007 Poetry Contest, judged by Matthea Harvey, and will be published in the July 2007 edition of the journal.

Miriam Parker’s short story “Made for TV Movie of My Life” was published in the December issue of Fourteen Hills.

Sumanth Prabhaker’s essay “A Hard Truth About Waste Management” has been published online at identitytheory.com and was chosen for Best American Fantasy 2007.

BFA student Daniel Terry published his poem “Hymn to Ophelia” in the national undergraduate literary journal The Albion Review.

“On the Cusp” is funded by a grant from the George Link Foundation.

Since June 2006, the following students have been featured in Wilma!, Wilmington’s magazine for women, in their “On the Cusp” series:

Megan Sheperd
Jennifer Rose
Stevie Kohler
Hannah Abrams
Janie Miller
Simona Chitescu
Lauren Hodges
Jen Weathers
Miriam Parker

“On the Cusp” is funded by a grant from the George Link Foundation.

The Shannon A. Morton Fellowship, a graduate merit scholarship, awarded by faculty nomination, designated for a second year MFA student whose creative work shows outstanding promise, was awarded to Hillary Wentworth.

The Robert H. Byington Leadership Fellowship honors the outstanding leadership and pioneering work of Dr. Robert H. Byington in establishing the Creative Writing Program and is funded by Philip Gerard. It is awarded at the start of the thesis year to an MFA student of outstanding creative achievement who has demonstrated unusual generosity of spirit toward faculty, staff, and peers and who has contributed significantly to the morale, community spirit, and excellence of the MFA program. This year it was warded by faculty and student nomination to Hannah Abrams.

The Lavonne Adams Award, created by MFA students, is awarded by student nomination and vote. It is designated for a graduating MFA student who, throughout his or her enrollment in the program, has shown an all-around dedication to the MFA program, his or her work, and the creative writing community. The recipient should have contributed to the academic and social health of the program, as well as the writing community at large. This year this award went to Emily Gorman-Fancy.

The Furia Award is funded by Laurie Patterson of UNCW’s Computer Science Department. The recipient of the award is an MFA student who, through coursework, MFA exam, and/or thesis, demonstrates the greatest historical understanding of their genre. This year the award went to Cynthia Ramsey.

The Gerard Fellowship is given to an incoming graduate student working toward an MFA and is based on merit. The award is funded by Charles Green III. This year’s recipient was Jason Mott.
Lavonne Adams has been invited to be an Artist-in-Residence at the Harwood Museum of Art in Taos, New Mexico, to work on her collection of poems based on the paintings of Georgia O’Keeffe. She also coordinated a team-taught, interdisciplinary version of “CRW 202: Explorations in the Creative Process.” The course features guest lecturers by faculty in Creative Writing, Studio Art, Art History, Music, Drama and Film Studies, with workshop sections taught by graduate teaching assistants in Creative Writing.

Tim Bass’s short story “Magenta Chickens” has been published in Aries magazine. He also developed a new course, Writing for Digital Media, which will be part of the digital arts minor in Computer Science that begins next fall.

Karen Bender’s short story “Theft” has been published in the Harvard Review and will also be included in Best American Mystery Stories 2006. “Re- fund,” published in Ploughshares, will reappear in Pushcart Prize 2007.

Barbara Brannon contributed articles to several recent issues of Wilmington Magazine. Her book, The Ferries of North Carolina: Traveling the State’s Nautical Highways, was published in spring of 2007.

Wendy Brenner’s essay “Love and Death in the Cape Fear Serpentarium” appears in the anthology Best American Magazine Writing 2006. Her essay in Oxford American was one of five finalists, along with an essay by adjunct faculty member John Jeremiah Sullivan, for the 2005 National Magazine Award in Feature Writing selected by the American Society of Magazine Editors. She published new nonfiction and fiction in Oxford American and Fairy Tale Review. Her short short story has also been published in Esquire’s online “napkin fiction archive”—stories written on Esquire cocktail napkins—and can be found at http://www.esquire.com/napkinproject.

Mark Cox’s work has recently appeared in Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poets from 1951–1977 (Mercer University Press); Homage to Vallejo (Greenhouse Review Press); Mantology: Poems of the Male Experience (University of Iowa Press); The Autumn House Book of Contemporary Poetry (Autumn House); Never Before: Poems of First Experience (Four Way Books); Blues for Bill: Tributes to William Matthews (University of Akron Press); The Giant Book of Poetry (Level4Press); Mississippi Review (online); and the Southern Review.

Clyde Edgerton’s Solo: My Adventures in the Air won the 2006 Regan Old North State Award for Nonfiction. The New York Times described Solo as a “spare, heartfelt celebration of the flying life.” Jonathan Yardley, reviewing Solo in the Washington Post, called the book an “engaging memoir . . . amiable in its account of how one learns to fly.” Clyde is only the second writer, after Tim McLaurin, to receive both the Fiction and Nonfiction awards from the Literary and Historical Association. Clyde Edgerton and Philip Gerard were featured writers in an article emphasizing North Carolina’s rich literary history published in the January 2007 Wrightsville Beach Magazine.

Phil Furia published America’s Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley (co-author, Michael Lasser; Routledge). He was interviewed on Bob Edwards Weekend and other national radio programs. He also wrote and emceed musical tributes to the Gershwins at Charleston’s


Nina de Gramont’s (MFA, 2006) novel and MFA thesis, *Gossip of the Starlings*, has been accepted for publication by Algonquin Books.

Kirsten Holmstedt’s (MFA, 2006) nonfiction book and MFA thesis about women in combat will be published by Stackpole Books in 2007. Kirsten’s extensive research for this book also led to her article on teaching Arabic to U.S. Marines before their deployment, which was published in *Leatherneck Magazine* last year and won a national Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Gwendolyn Knapp’s (MFA, 2006) story “There Are Surfers in Iowa” appeared in *Crazyhorse 70*.

Thomas J. Kunz’s (MFA, 2004) essay “A Strategy For Adjuncts: How to Acquire Classes in the 11th Hour” appeared in the August issue of the AWP Job List. Tom’s short story “High Def” appeared in the September issue of *Other Voices* magazine.

Rob Lurie’s (MFA, 2005) biography *No Certainty Attached: Searching for Steve Kilbey* has been bought by Verse Chorus Press of Portland, Oregon. It will be released in the U.S., the U.K., and Australia in spring 2007.

Nate Perrine (MFA, 2005) has two poems featured on gtweekly.com—*Good Times Weekly*, the news and entertainment weekly of Santa Cruz County (California).


Kim Shable’s (MFA, 2004) column, “Random Thoughts,” appears in *The Columbus Dispatch*. 

Alumni Publications

Alumni Readings

Eli Hastings (MFA, 2004) is the author of *Falling Room* (2006), the latest in the University of Nebraska’s American Lives Publishing line, a series edited by acclaimed writer Tobias Wolff. His work has appeared in many noted journals, including *Cimarron Review*, the *Seattle Review*, and the *Tulane Review*. He has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and he won the *Alligator Juniper* nonfiction contest.

Catherine McCall’s memoir, *Lifeguarding: A Memoir of Secrets, Swimming, and the South*, was published by Harmony in 2006. It was named one of the “50 Hot Summer Books” by *Entertainment Weekly* and chosen to receive one of three Reader’s Prizes by *Elle*.
Many fine writers are pursuing the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at UNCW. Recently, senior Daniel Terry was awarded a UNC Undergraduate Research Opportunity Expansion Initiative Grant, which enabled him to travel to New Orleans and Mississippi to complete his collection of poems, *Days of Dark Miracles*, about hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Coast.

Daniel read selections from his collection for the UNCW Board of Visitors meeting in November 2006.

In March 2007 he will be reading selections from his collection at the AWP (Associated Writers and Writing Programs) national conference in Atlanta and in April at the College English Association conference in New Orleans. Daniel received a travel grant from UNCW to present at the CEA.

In the past months, poems from Daniel’s collection have been published in *Oberon*, *The Albion Review*, *Hinges*, and *The River: The Natchez Poetry Anthology*.

*Days of Dark Miracles* was selected as a finalist by Patricia Fargnoli in the 2006 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.

For more information about the BFA program, contact the coordinator, Lavonne Adams, adamsl@uncw.edu.

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**I, Katrina**

from *Days of Dark Miracles* by Daniel Terry

My father is the Sun and he is relentless
in his need to penetrate and remake the world
in his image. My mother is the Sea and, despite rumors
to the contrary, is not changeable and will not be moved
by his advances. She will suffer just so much of his hot love
before, panting and swarming with desires not her own,
she heaves him off. In the aftermath of their false passions,
even the air is sweating.

And I, Katrina, am born the bastard child
of lovelessness.

What am I, that the Sun creates me thoughtlessly? What am I,
that the Sea gives me up?

How can my head be full of thunderous thoughts
and lightning needs when I am only hours old? Why
is my throat burning with latent heat while my brow
is caked in ice? Why do I grow so swiftly? Why is my heart,
the center of my being, so cloudless, my core so empty?
Why this deluge of tears?

Why will I destroy you?

For this question alone, I have an answer —
I go where the greater winds lead me,
where the trade winds blow. Those same winds
that steered Columbus to the West Indies.
That brought the conquistadores to the Aztecs.

I did not choose you any more than I chose
to be what I am. For all my strength, I am like you — a victim
of the wind — driven by what is outside of me.
Try to understand my fury as you should, by now,
understand your own — after all, I’m not the first
to be forced here from Africa, weeping and bound
for the Mississippi.

And I know as well as you do that landfall will kill us both.

This said —
I am no coward, no willing suicide.

I will not be forgotten.

I am heady now with power and I will be all that I can be
before Arctic fronts can cool my rage, before the land
bleeds me dry, before mountain walls, like levees,
hold me still for one last cry.
This past May, I had the opportunity to travel to China with the assistance of a travel grant from the UNCW Graduate Student Association. My thesis is a novel set mostly in Shanghai, and it's very loosely based on my family's relationship to Asia over the past hundred years. Being able to walk through the streets my Mema described, entering buildings where her father and her husband worked, and just observing and absorbing the chaotic energy of Shanghai, Beijing, and the little towns between was absolutely incredible. It gave me insight for my thesis, but it was a very personal learning experience as well.

Some of the highlights of my trip included climbing Taishan, one of the five sacred peaks of Taoism, standing under the famous portrait of Chairman Mao and looking across the vastness of Tiananmen Square, walking on the Great Wall of China, and watching the graceful movements of people practicing tai’chi on the banks of the Yangtze in the early morning.

The best moment, though, had to come after walking for miles through Shanghai in the rain, searching for an address on a street without signs or numbers, and finally coming to it—Number 2, Columbia Circle, the house where Mema grew up and the actual setting for much of my novel.

Her father built the home in the early 1920s in what was then the International Settlement but now is a multi-family dwelling, crowded and in disrepair, with bicycles stacked in the front yard and laundry hanging from every window. Nevertheless, the sight, like the entire trip, was an amazing and inspiring experience.

On Sunday, February 18, 2007 graduate students from the creative writing department at UNCW opened their exhibition, The Red Wheelbarrow: An Exhibition of Word and Image at ERA Furniture and Art Gallery located in downtown Wilmington. The exhibition ran through February 28th.

The exhibition featured nine writers from poetry, fiction, and non-fiction that collaborated to bring various perspectives together on the relationship between image and language. Through written and visual mediums, each artist explored how they visually “read” a photograph, as well as the ways in which language affects their visual artwork.

The roots of this show began in the spring of 2006 during Sarah Messer’s Lyric Essay class. Lyric essay is a style of writing that is one part poem to another part nonfiction essay. Therefore the class brought poets, nonfiction writers, and fiction writers together in a unique environment where experimentation and risk-taking were welcome. Around the middle of the semester a conversation about art and writing between MFA students Erin Bond and Janie Miller planted the seeds for the show. By October, nine writers were committed to the idea of producing a language-art show.

This conceptual art show included paintings, collage, drawings, photography, and still life sculpture. The artists’ hopes were to share their efforts and discoveries with the community, and to leave behind an annual legacy for future UNCW graduate students. The ties between language and image are both mysterious and explicit, leaving the opportunity for exploration limitless.

Left to right: Red Wheelbarrow artists (back) Beth James, Visha Burkhart, Janie Miller, Jen Shepard, Alison Harney; (front) Erin Seabolt-Bond, Audrey Weis, Hillary Wentworth.

by Ashley Talley

by Janie Miller
The weekend of March 23-25, 2007, UNCW will help host a creative writing retreat on Bald Head Island, off the coast of southeastern North Carolina. Set in a pristine maritime forest, the Bald Head Island Creative Writing Retreat uniquely emphasizes writing from place. It is a collaborative endeavor between the UNCW Department of Creative Writing, the Bald Head Island Conservancy, and the NC Coastal Reserve.

The weekend retreat provides expert instruction in the craft of writing as well as directed workshops in several genres. Writers are invited to participate in field trips to the preserved environments of Bald Head Island, affording an insight into the ecology and history of this unusual area with the aim of informing their writing.

Readings by acclaimed authors Clyde Edgerton, David Gessner, Karen Bender, Robert Anthony Siegel, and Mike White will also be held.

In addition to housing intact maritime ecosystems, Bald Head Island is a renowned vacation destination. With activities ranging from golf to beachcombing on the Cape Fear (where the shells can be spectacular), Bald Head is a unique mix of natural setting and human habitation. Bald Head Islanders have sought to develop a world-class resort in the midst of some of the best examples of salt marsh and maritime forest anywhere in the Southeast. This interplay between the human and natural worlds provides inspiration.

On Friday night, March 23, participants will arrive on Bald Head Island by ferry and convene at the conservancy Turtle Central for a talk by David Gessner about his new book, Soaring with Fidel, which follows the osprey migration to Cuba. After the talk, writers will have the opportunity to meet and socialize.

Saturday includes field trips to the marshes of the Smith Island Complex and Bald Head Woods, a preserved component of the NC Coastal Reserve. Classes in craft in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction are offered in the afternoon by faculty of UNCW’s Department of Creative Writing. Saturday evening will feature a talk by Clyde Edgerton, followed by an open mic student reading.

Sunday is devoted to workshops in the genre of your choice.

The cost of the workshop is $300. This includes classes, lectures, talks, tours of the maritime forest and marshes, and catered meals (with the exception of Friday night dinner). Housing is available at additional cost in three forms: dormitory-style rooms at the Conservancy, group homes, and single rentals. All Bald Head housing is at a 20% discount. For information on registering or housing, contact Lisa Bertini at (910) 962-3070.
Adrienne Brodeur is a consulting editor at Harcourt Trade Publishers. She is the founding editor of Zoetrope: All-Story, a fiction magazine she started with filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. She was Zoetrope’s editor-in-chief 1995–2002, during which time Zoetrope won the prestigious National Magazine Award for Best Fiction. Her first novel, Man Camp, was published by Random House in 2005.

Amy Hughes is an affiliate literary agent at McCormick & Williams. Previously, she was a publicist at Simon & Schuster, an editor at Penguin, and has done freelance editing and writing for several publishing houses and magazines.

Sydney Lea’s most recent collection of poems is Ghost Pain (Sarabande Books, 2005). Lea founded New England Review in 1977 and edited it until 1989. Of his seven previous poetry collections, Pursuit of a Wound (University of Illinois Press, 2000), was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. The preceding volume, To the Bone: New and Selected Poems (Univ. of Illinois Press, 1996), was co-winner of the 1998 Poets’ Prize. His stories, poems, essays, and criticism have appeared in the New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, the New Republic, the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and many other periodicals, as well as in more than forty anthologies.

Sebastian Matthews is the author of a collection of poems, We Generous (Red Hen Press, 2007), and a memoir, In My Father’s Footsteps (Norton, 2004). He co-edited, with Stanley Plumly, Search Party: Collected Poems of William Matthews (Houghton Mifflin, 2004), a recent finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Matthews edits Rivendell, a place-based literary journal. His poetry and prose have appeared in Atlantic Monthly, Georgia Review, and Outside. Orlean has written several books, including The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Ordinary People (Random House, 2001), a collection of stories; Red Sox and Blue Fish (Faber & Faber, 1987), a compilation of columns she wrote for the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, “Saturday Night” (Knopf, 1990), a journal of essays which chronicle the Saturday nights she spent in communities across the country; and The Orchid Thief (Random House, 1998), a narrative about orchid poachers in Florida. The Orchid Thief was made into the movie Adaptation, adapted for the screen by Charlie Kaufman and directed by Spike Jonze.

Jason Ockert is the author of Rabbit Punches (Low Fidelity Press, 2006), a collection of short stories. He is the winner of the 1999 Atlantic Monthly Fiction Contest and the 2002 Mary Roberts Rinehart Award. His work has appeared in Black Warrior Review, Mid-American Review, and the Oxford American and is forthcoming in the Indiana Review. One of his stories has recently been selected for the 2007 New Stories from the South Anthology.

Jacob Slichter is a writer and drummer from Champaign, Illinois, who graduated from Harvard. His band, Semisonic, was formed in 1992 with guitarist/singer/songwriter Dan Wilson and bassist John Munson. After signing with MCA Records in 1994, Semisonic released several albums, including Great Divide, Feeling Strangely Fine, and All About Chemistry. Best known in the United States for their chart-topping single “Closing Time,” Semisonic’s platinum-selling success landed them in the media spotlight and on airwaves and stages around the globe. Slichter's critically acclaimed memoir, So You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star (Broadway Books, 2006), is a literate and detailed look behind the scenes at the workings of the music business as well as at the mind of a performer who chases after superstardom with failure ever at his heels.

Dao Strom is the author of Grass Roof, Tin Roof, a novel (Mariner Books, 2003), and The Gentle Order of Girls and Boys (Counterpoint Press, 2006), a book of stories. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop, and has been the recipient of an NEA Literature Fellowship, a James Michener fellowship and the Chicago Tribune/Nelson Algren Award.

John Sullivan is a writer-at-large for GQ and a recipient of a 2004 Whiting Writers’ Award. His memoir, Blood Horses: Notes of a Sportswriter’s Son (Picador, 2005) was named a Book of the Year by the Economist. His writing has appeared in the Paris Review, New York Magazine, The New York Times, and Harper’s, where he spent four years as a senior editor.


Dana Sachs is the author of the novel If You Lived Here (William Morrow, 2007) and The House on Dream Street: Memoir of an American Woman in Vietnam (Algonquin, 2000), and co-author of Two Cakes Fit for a King: Folktales from Vietnam. Her essays, reviews, and articles have appeared in such publications as National Geographic, the International Herald Tribune, and Travel & Leisure Family. A resident of Wilmington and part-time instructor at UNCW, Dana was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship in 2005 that enabled her to spend a year in Vietnam researching a nonfiction book on Operation Babylift, the evacuation of several thousand Vietnamese children from Saigon at the end of the American War.

UNCW Writers’ Week is supported in part by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.
Visiting Writers

The Department of Creative Writing is committed to bringing the best authors in all genres to be a part of our writing community. Visiting writers spend a month or a semester living and teaching among our own students and faculty, or come for shorter stays. Their workshops, critiques, informal discussions, and public readings richly complement our curriculum.

UNCW’s Creative Writing Graduate Student Association hosted the 2007 AWP Reading with award-winning author Margot Livesey. Her bestselling books include Banishing Verona (Henry Holt, 2004), The Missing World (Knopf, 2000) and Eva Moves the Furniture (Henry Holt, 2001), a New York Times Notable Book, an Atlantic Monthly Best Book of the Year and a PEN/Winship finalist.

Bob Reiss’ most recent book is The Coming Storm. Reiss has written more than a dozen of books, ranging from global thrillers to nonfiction explorations of environmental issues. In 1992 Reiss published The Road to Extrema, a nonfiction work exploring the issues of Brazilian deforestation. His current work of fiction, The Side Effect (2006), is a suspense thriller set amongst powerful pharmaceutical companies. He has written for Smithsonian Magazine, Rolling Stone, GQ, Glamour, Parade, The Washington Post Magazine, and other national publications.

Gerald Stern, the first poet laureate of New Jersey and the newly elected chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, has taught at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop as well as at other colleges and universities. He is the author of fourteen books of poetry, including This Time: New and Selected Poems, which won the National Book Award in 1998, and most recently, Everything Is Burning (2005) and American Sonnets (2002), all published by W. W. Norton. His book of personal essays, What I Can’t Bear Losing: Notes From a Life, was released by Norton in November 2003. Not God After All, a book of aphorisms or petite narratives, was published in October 2004 by Autumn House Press.

Stern’s honors include the Paris Review’s Bernard F. Conners Award, the Bess Hokin Award from Poetry, the Ruth Lilly Prize, four National Endowment for the Arts grants, the Pennsylvania Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Jerome J. Shestack Poetry Prize from American Poetry Review, and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts on the Arts. In 2005, Stern was selected to receive the Wallace Stevens Award for mastery in the art of poetry.

Katherine Buckner Reading Series

The Buckner Reading Series was established by Charles F. Green III, alumnus of UNCW class of 1971, in honor of his friend Katherine Buckner. It allows us to bring a wide range of distinguished writers to the UNCW campus.

George Singleton has published more than 100 stories in magazines such as Atlantic Monthly, Harper’s, Playboy, Zoetrope, Georgia Review, Shenandoah, Southern Review, and North American Review. His stories have been anthologized in seven editions of New Stories from the South. Singleton is also the author of four collections of short stories: These People Are Us (2001), The Half-Mammals of Dixie (2002), Why Dogs Chase Cars (2004), and Drowning in Gruel (2006). His novel Novel was published in 2005 by Harcourt.

Joy Williams is the author of four novels—the most recent, The Quick and the Dead, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2001—and two earlier collections of stories, as well as Ill Nature, a book of essays that was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism. Among her many honors are the Rea Award for the short story and the Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
Young Writers’ Workshop

The Young Writers’ Workshop, a week-long camp for high school students interested in learning more about the craft of writing, marked its fifth consecutive summer in 2006. This year’s Young Writers’ Workshop will begin on Tuesday, June 19 and run through Saturday, June 23.

The schedule involves morning writing exercises, which help students generate new poems, stories, and essays, craft lectures by various creative writing faculty members and graduate students, and afternoon workshops. Other activities for the week include an open mic, a T-shirt decorating party, and an excursion to the south end of Wrightsville Beach for a special end-of-camp reading. The workshop is held on the UNCW campus each year. Students stay in the residence halls and take meals in the dining facility.

This year the program coordinators, Peter Biello and Kara Norman, are proud to announce that this year the workshop will be awarding scholarships to writers of exceptional talent.

Writers In Action

Writers in Action is a project in which MFA Creative Writing candidates conduct creative writing sessions with area elementary, middle school, and high school students. Individually, or in groups, the mentors spend approximately ten classes teaching fiction and ten classes teaching poetry. The program serves as an excellent way to interest young people in writing, help them improve their grammar skills, and provide opportunities for graduate students to work with young people and acquire valuable teaching experience.

This year, three MFA students are participating in the program, working at various schools throughout New Hanover County. This past year, the present coordinator of Writers in Action, Kristin Cole, expanded the program to Gregory Elementary and Noble Middle School, in addition to continuing the relationship that the previous coordinator built with the SAGE program at Blair Elementary. Her future goal is to expand the program to include more elementary and middle schools as well as investigate the possibility of expanding the program to include Leland area schools. With an expansion of the program, she would eventually like to include the BFA students in the program as well.

Cole is also looking to create other opportunities for Writers in Action graduate student participants, such as reading to younger elementary school students and organizing holiday-themed readings. She’d even like to organize a reading at the end of the year for the Writers in Action students.

For more information on YWW, visit www.uncw.edu/writers or email youngwriterscamp@uncw.edu.

GUARD from page 1 “a person of energy and vision who will work to ensure that your department's development continues uninterrupted.” The dean added the department was “very fortunate in this process to have two excellent candidates, both fully qualified for the job and highly regarded by their peers.” He also praised Phil Furia “for his many contributions as chair for these three years. He has done a difficult job very well, always with grace and good humor. Creative Writing is a stronger department due to Phil’s efforts.”

Philip Gerard will assume office in July, as the department readies itself to move to a renovated Kenan Hall. As one of the few independent departments of creative writing in the country, UNCW’s program will have its own building in a central campus location. Renovations are designed to enhance every aspect of the department and its programs. Gerard, who founded the creative writing program when he came to UNCW in the early 1990s, says that “in fall 2007, the Department of Creative Writing will have come of age: all of our faculty offices, graduate teaching assistant offices, administrative spaces, classrooms, and reception space will be in the same location, along with the Publishing Laboratory and the offices of Ecotone. I . . . find it personally very gratifying to preside over this stage of the maturation of our academic writing community.”
The Publishing Laboratory

Joy C. Davis’s article first appeared in UNCW Magazine, fall 2006, and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and editors.

The word “laboratory” often conjures up images of dark rooms, bizarre chemical combinations and workers in white coats. The University of North Carolina Wilmington Publishing Laboratory offers a far different experience. In this unique lab, the essence of crisply cut paper and the staccato rhythm of students typing on keyboards lingers in the air as machinery offers a curiously strong comforting warmth.

The lab is a valuable element of the Creative Writing Department, because “for most writers the world of publishing is a complete mystery. The lab gives students real hands-on experience with all aspects of publishing—editing, book design and marketing—helping us fulfill both the artistic and vocational needs of our students,” said Chair Phil Furia.

Graduate assistant Alison Harney agreed: “For many, all of these questions arise about how to earn a living after achieving an MFA degree. The Publishing Lab allows us to foresee work in the industry while still pursuing our own writing craft.”

A rare treasure, few other post-secondary institutions have a program with the capabilities of the UNCW Publishing Lab. The lab represents a microcosm of the processes and economics of book publishing in the larger world by using print-on-demand technology to design and manufacture short print runs ranging from a single copy to thousands.


Since 2002, the Pub Lab has operated under the direction of Barbara Brannon, a veteran editor and publisher who also teaches classes in editing, publishing and the art of bookbuilding. Bindery equipment, provided initially by a grant from Friends of UNCW, is maintained by graduate teaching assistants Alison Harney, Kerry Molessa and Sumanth Prabhaker, who also oversee the graphic design of the department’s promotional communications.

As a teaching tool to enrich both undergraduate and graduate creative writing courses, the lab provides students with what professor Mark Cox called “the ability to hold the work, see the beautiful art—to see how the font, the typography and the cover art match up with the content and the vision of the author.” Alison Harney likened the bookbuilding experience to “constructing a sculpture.”

Brannon remarked, “We not only enable students to publish their visions in tangible forms like chapbooks (a small collection of works), but also support the surrounding community by producing niche regional works that pass under the radar. We take pride in being a specialty press for unusual books.”

The Pub Lab published its first novel, Sorayya Khan’s Noor, in 2005. Works such as Audubon North Carolina Education Director Andy Wood’s Backyard Carolina: Two Decades of Public Radio Commentary. The lab also lends its expertise to the Creative Writing Department’s national literary journal, Ecotone, published twice a year.
It’s been an exciting year for Ecotone, which has continued to establish itself as a vital and unique voice in the crowded landscape of literary journals. For a journal still in its infancy, Ecotone has already accomplished more than its contemporaries have in ten years. None of it would have been possible without the sustained support of the Creative Writing Department. The journal’s small but hard-working staff has done a phenomenal job promoting Ecotone, raising funds, reading submissions, and copy editing.

And it hasn’t been without critical notice. Best American Poetry 2006 included Gerald Stern’s poem “Home Sick” from our debut issue. Reg Saner’s essay “Lions in the Street” from the same issue was named a notable essay in Best American Essays 2006. Most recently, Alicita’s Rodriguez’s “Imagining Bisbee” from our third issue was selected for Best Stories of the Southwest 2007.

It’s not just readers who are responding—so are writers. Submissions continue to pour into our office. Our first two issues relied heavily upon solicited pieces—a common tactic for a young journal with minimal name recognition. For our third and fourth issues, nearly all of the work has come through the mail. Great writers are aware of Ecotone and look to contribute work that fits within our distinctive literary niche.

With our third issue, we launched an exciting new Maps feature, conceived and orchestrated by fiction editor and designer Sumanth Prabhaker. It’s the perfect mix of artwork and story that plays into Ecotone’s focus of blending boundaries. Aimee Bender’s inventive maps appeared in our third issue and Rick Moody’s flowchart narratives will appear in issue four. By next fall, we hope this innovative project will feature prominently in each issue, taking over the color inserts.

But for all of these accomplishments, we continue to push the business side of the journal. It’s not the most glamorous part of working on Ecotone but it’s one of the most important in terms of building our subscription base and revenue.

Associate editor Miriam Parker maintains Ecotone’s website and has taken the lead on our distribution. DeBoer’s Inc. currently distributes 200 copies of Ecotone to bookstores throughout the country, the first such deal we’ve made, and certainly not the last. This is vital for the journal, not just in terms of money but also name recognition.

Our biggest concern remains increasing subscriptions. In the fall, we lowered our subscription rates in an attempt to boost interest and sales. Following this, we advertised more aggressively and sent out the first Ecotone email newsletter to more than 3,000 subscribers. For the spring semester, we have focused our efforts on university and public libraries throughout the country, hoping many will subscribe to Ecotone.

This past fall, the Landfall Foundation awarded Ecotone a $4,000 grant—almost enough money to cover the printing cost of a single issue. After this success, we have targeted similar organizations in the hopes of increasing funding for the journal.

While working on the daily upkeep of the journal and overseeing the push for subscriptions, there is a sense that Ecotone will continue to grow. We are considering the possibility of holding Ecotone’s first writing contest in the fall or spring. And we will continue to expand our creativity within the journal and push harder for sales and subscriptions. We’re confident that Ecotone will garner even more attention and acclaim.

For more information about Ecotone, contact editor in chief David Gessner at gessnerdm@uncw.edu or e-mail ecotone@uncw.edu.
necessary for the recipient to have achieved a GPA of 3.0, and he or she must maintain that average to be eligible for renewal.

Qualified recipients shall possess a demonstrated historical record of community service and/or volunteerism in support of non-profit organizations or programs. Recipients shall further manifest their continuing commitment to perform community service and/or volunteerism throughout their undergraduate tenure at UNCW. It is the hope of the donors that Jesse’s example will inspire the recipients of this scholarship to achieve their greatest potential and take positive stands in their sphere of influence.

a merit scholarship awarded by the Honors Program. Her general love of learning has manifested itself in a double major/double minor in Creative Writing/Film Studies and Spanish/Classical Studies.

When considering her future goals York remarks, “I have known ever since I was little that I wanted to be a writer and some form of teacher. The exact form of each profession has changed from year to year until I decided that the perfect solution was to get a doctorate and become a professor while still pursuing a career as a screenwriter.”

She intends to continue writing fiction on the side, but says, “Stories have always come to me in film form. It’s difficult for me to describe the importance of writing in my life except to say that I go into withdrawal without it."

York is also a student athlete and the recipient of a soccer scholarship awarded for her perseverance on the field.

An award reception that celebrated New Hanover County Library’s Centennial and the North Carolina Sorosis Award for Creative Writing was held at the North Carolina Sorosis Clubhouse on Nov. 12, 2006.
Spoleto Festival, to Duke Ellington at Kenan Auditorium, and to Burton Lane at the New York Historical Society.

**Philip Gerard**’s article “The Art of Creative Research” appeared in the *AWP Chronicle*, October–November 2006. He has also been invited to speak at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, one of the oldest and most venerable intellectual, artistic, and religious institutions in America.

**David Gessner**’s book *Soaring with Fidel: An Osprey Odyssey from Cape Cod to Cuba and Beyond* was released this April by Beacon Press. “Gessner writes beautifully, full of grace and humor,” says *Publishers’ Weekly*. For more information go to www.ospreyworld.com.

David’s essay about moving south, “Learning to Surf,” which originally appeared in *Orion* magazine, has received the annual award for best nature essay from the John Burroughs Association. He accepted the award at their annual meeting at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on April 2.

**Rebecca Lee**’s first novel, *The City Is a Rising Tide*, was published by Simon & Schuster in summer 2006. National Book Award winner Jonathan Franzen said of it, “Lee’s novel is beautiful and insane and unlike any other. The comedy lures you in, the scenes in Manhattan seduce you, the poetry stabs you in the heart.” The *New York Times* described it as a “skillfully constructed novel” and praised “Lee’s ability to amp up the tension, comic and otherwise, until the book begins to seem like it could spontaneously combust.” Also, Rebecca’s short story “Slatland,” originally published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, was produced as a film for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. It aired on Bravo and won several awards from the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association for Best Art Direction, Best Photography, Best Original Sound, and Best Drama Under 60 Minutes.

**Sarah Messer** gave a reading from her book *Red House: Being a Mostly Accurate Account of New England’s Oldest Continuously Lived-In House* (Viking, 2004) to the friends of the University of North Carolina Libraries. She also gave a lecture on the writing of *Red House* and Marshfield history at the Issac Winslow House in Marshfield, Massachusetts. In October 2006, she was a poet in residence for three days at Bowdoin College. While there, she met with faculty and students and gave a reading of new work. You can listen to her read online at www.fishousepoems.org or on podcast at Apple iTunes.

**Malena Mörling**’s poems were chosen on three different occasions by Garrison Keillor to be read on his public radio program “The Writer’s Almanac.” Her book *Astoria*, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press Poetry Series in 2006, was reviewed in the *New York Times*, which said, “Mörling’s surprising juxtapositions fascinate and delight . . . [her] dreamy amazement at the world’s weird plenty never feels affected or calculated . . . It’s a rare and refreshing delight to encounter such lovely ingenuousness.”


**Michael White**’s third collection of poetry, *Re-entry*, was published by the University of North Texas Press in April 2006. It was named a Notable Book of 2006 by North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, who said the book “throws the door wide open onto a world that is fiercely observed and fearlessly, even obsessively, rendered.”
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