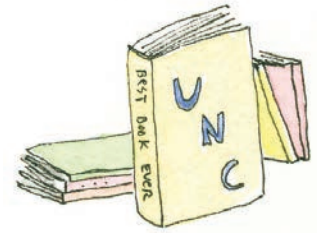
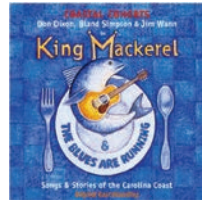


Chapter & Verse

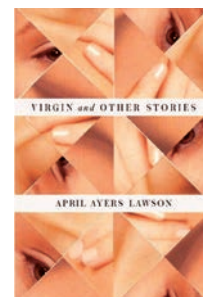
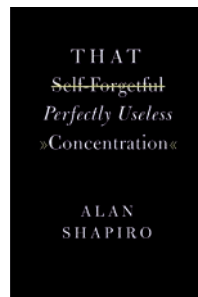
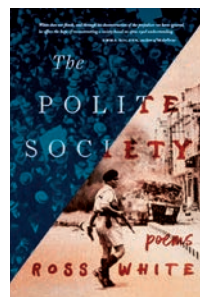
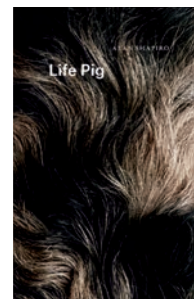
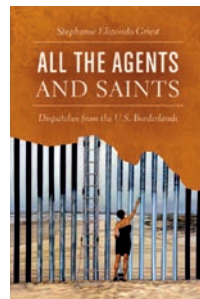
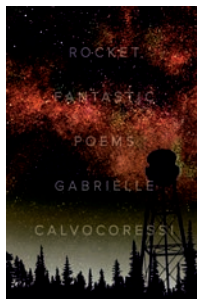


NEWSLETTER OF THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT UNC CHAPEL HILL



Writers at Work

Professors and instructors in the Creative Writing Program at Carolina spend the bulk of their days teaching and working with their students, but they also write books and plays of their own. This year no less than eight books have been published by teachers in the program, in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction; in addition, an original play for puppets and a classic musical, *King Mackerel & the Blues Are Running*, were performed. This list doesn't include the stories and poems and essays that have been published in magazines but have yet to make it into book form. It's quite remarkable to have so many successful, working writers in one program, especially one devoted exclusively to undergraduate writers. Take a look:



2017-2018

Faculty and Alumni News, Prize-Winning Authors, and More!

Chapter & Verse is published yearly by the Creative Writing Program.

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Dear Readers,

I'm writing this in the summer of 2017, from my office high atop Greenlaw, the building where so much of the magic of the Creative Writing Program happens. I wonder how many stories, poems and essays have been written, read, and workshopped here since the Program began, seventy years ago; how many students have gone on to write and publish (you can see a long but partial list on our website); and how many other students, while perhaps not becoming poets or novelists themselves, have become sensitive readers and more articulate writers in whatever career they've chosen, blessing the world with clarity of thought and expression.

Writing is a serious business, and it's taken seriously at UNC. This past year we taught forty-four classes, with a total enrollment of 641 students. For the first time, in addition to poetry and fiction, a Senior Honors class in non-fiction was offered, taught by **Stephanie Elizondo Griest**. Along with **Alan Shapiro's** poetry class, and mine in fiction, twenty-eight writers graduated with honors in 2017, the most we've ever had.

Change goes in both directions, though. This past spring was **Lawrence Naumoff's** last at Carolina, as he made the difficult decision, after seventeen years, to retire. He told me he probably taught over one thousand students in that time. "Truly talented and interesting students," he says, "and without exaggeration, some who were brilliant on the page." Lawrence is brilliant on the page and in the classroom, and we will miss his

presence in Greenlaw. It's because of the contribution of instructors like Lawrence Naumoff, and the leadership of **Max Steele, Jim Seay**—and so many others, that we're able to continue what has become one of the preeminent undergraduate creative writing programs in the country.



This year the **Hanes Distinguished Visiting Writer** was **Ted Conover**, author of *Newjack*, which documents the year he spent as a prison guard in Sing Sing, and many other works of immersive non-fiction as well. He read short selections from all of his books, which allowed the audience to get a sense of his growth as a writer and journalist. We thank **Nancy White** and **Robin Hanes** for their ongoing support of this important series. **The Thomas Wolfe Lecture** was given by **Jill McCorkle**, preeminent North Carolina short story writer and novelist, and alumna of the program. Our thanks to **John** and **Jess Skipper** for their continued support.

We are fortunate to enjoy two **Armfield Poetry Readings** every year, sponsored by the **Armfield Fund** for Poetry, a bequest to us from the late poet **Blanche Britt Armfield** (MA 1928). Our distinguished poets and readers for 2016-2017 were **C. Dale Young**, whose most recent book is *The Halo* (2016), and **Jim McMichael**, author of many books of poetry, most recently *If You Can Tell: Poems* (2016).

Our friends at UNC are helpful in too many ways to name, but we thank them all: **Department of English and Comparative Literature Chair Mary-Floyd Wilson** and **Interim Chair for 2016-2017 Bland Simpson**, and our allies and counselors in South Building, particularly **Chancellor Carol Folt, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz**, and **Director of Communications Geneva Collins**.

As always, we recognize the other private funds supporting Creative Writing activities, including the **Rankin Faculty Support Fund**, established by **Alex Rankin** (class of 1977); the **Burrus Fund**, established by **Ann Williams Burrus** (class of 1952); the **Froelich Family Fund**, established to help increase our lecturers' stipends by **Henry** (class of 1981) and **Molly Froelich** of Charlotte; and our **Gift Fund. The Walker Percy** (class of 1937) **Fund**, an endowment to help underwrite our lecturers, was set in motion several years ago by **Frank Borden Hanes, Sr.** (class of 1942). And the **Robert Ruark Award**, for student non-fiction writing about North Carolina's natural world, receives support from the **Ruark Society of Chapel Hill**, led by retired attorney and author **James T. Cheatham III** (class of 1957, 1961 LLBJD). We deeply appreciate the support of these friends of Creative Writing.

Onward!
Daniel Wallace, *Director*
Creative Writing Program

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS FOR 2017

Department of English, Comparative Literature and Department of American Studies

BLANCHE ARMFIELD PRIZE IN POETRY

Hayes Cooper

SUZANNE BOLCH LITERARY AWARD

Aaron Lovett

ROBERT B. HOUSE MEMORIAL PRIZE IN POETRY

Sumeet Patwardham

ROBERT RUARK SOCIETY PRIZE IN NON-FICTION

Ashlen Renner

LOUIS D. RUBIN, JR., PRIZE IN CREATIVE WRITING

Christine Jean Lloyd

BLAND SIMPSON PRIZE IN CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Maddie Norris

Jacqueline Kenny — *2nd Place*

MAX STEELE PRIZE IN FICTION

Erik Schoning

GEORGE B. WYNNE AWARD IN FICTION

Maya Chari

ANN WILLIAMS BURRUS PRIZE IN POETRY

Ellen Boyette

MINI-MAX SHORT-SHORT FICTION PRIZE

Victor Ayala

Anna Lee — *2nd Place*

Trevor Lenzmeier — *3rd Place*

Annie McDarris, Ben Penley,

Kacey Rigsby — *Honorable Mentions*



2017 Hanes Distinguished Visiting Writer Ted Conover with Nancy White and Robin Hanes.



Thomas Wolfe Medal Winner Jill McCorkle

Undergraduate Wins Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize

Evana Bodiker (Class of 2018) has won the Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize for her collection *Ephemera*. Comprised largely of poems written in her Intermediate and Advanced Poetry Writing courses at UNC, *Ephemera* will be published by Texas Review Press in Spring 2018.

"For a young poet, this is so reassuring in terms of my future as a writer. I've been submitting to literary journals since finishing Intro to Poetry Writing," Bodiker said. "When I submitted my chapbook to the Robert Phillips chapbook competition, I had no expectations of winning. It's still hard to believe a book of my poetry will be out in the world for people to read."



Bodiker is currently enrolled in the Senior Honors course with Gabrielle Calvocoressi. Phillips, who judged the award which bears his name, is the author or editor of some 30 volumes of poetry, fiction, criticism, and belles lettres and publishes in numerous journals. A professor of English, he was director of the University of Houston Creative Writing Program from 1991 to 1996. His honors include a Pushcart Prize, an American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, a New York State Council on the Arts CAPS Grant in Poetry, MacDowell Colony and Yaddo Fellowships, a National Public Radio Syndicated Fiction Project Award, a Syracuse University Arents Pioneer Medal, and Texas Institute of Letters membership. In 1998, he was named a John and Rebecca Moore Scholar at the University of Houston.

CWP IN THE DTH

Bob Young was perusing the pages of the *New York Times Magazine* when he saw an old friend. There amid the columns of journalism was a poem, the lines floating in the extra white space that surrounded it, and an idea began to form for Young.

Young had been an English major at the University of North Carolina and had developed a great affinity for poetry. He was also a member of the men's basketball squad that won the 1957 national title, so his affection for his alma mater ran deep. He had been looking for ways to memorialize his late wife Pat, who also was a life-long lover of words and poetry.

"The idea just began to evolve," Young says. "I thought what better way to honor and remember Pat than to get poetry, particularly student poetry, into the newspaper."

And the newspaper that came quickly to mind for Young was the *Daily Tar Heel*. "When I was at UNC the *DTH* was our only source of information and the editor then was Charles Kuralt, who was revered. We always read it in its entirety." Kuralt went on to become a well-known national journalist and host of the beloved *Sunday Morning* television show.

Young hatched the plan of getting current UNC students' poems into the *Daily Tar Heel* and, working with retired News Service writer LJ Toler, contacted the English Department to see how to proceed. They enlisted the services of Professor Michael McFee to help find stellar student poems, and *Tar Heel Verses* was born.

The project publishes a student

poem, selected by the poetry faculty of the Creative Writing Program, once a month in the pages of the *DTH*. Each poem carries the banner "Sponsored by Bob Young '57 in honor of his wife Pat, and the 1957 UNC National Championship basketball team."

Professor McFee selected the first round of poems from his senior honors class. "Poetry is too often viewed with suspicion, even dislike, as something written in an esoteric code that only a certain literary elite can appreciate," Professor McFee says. "I could not disagree more with that attitude, and neither could Bob Young, whose generous support made possible what he called 'bringing poetry to the people' in the *Daily Tar Heel*. In the spring of 2016, I was proud to be able to share poems from the ten students in my Senior Honors in Poetry Writing class, work which was accessible in the best possible ways: fresh subject matter, keen diction, vivid imagery, engaging wit, and passion balanced by intelligence. It meant so much to them, to me, and to their readers."

And it continues to be meaningful, as the project has gone forward with Professor Michael Chitwood selecting poems. "It's a great idea that actually is in an old tradition, as poetry used to appear regularly in the pages of newspapers," Professor Chitwood says. "I think that as a lover of the well-turned phrase, emeritus editor Kuralt is smiling to see poetry aboard the ship he once captained."

For the student poets, the experience has also been gratifying. "*Tar Heel Verses* was the first time one of my poems left the classroom," says Nyla Numan, a junior English and Chemistry

TAR HEEL verses

sponsored monthly by Bob Young '57 in honor of his wife, Pat, and the 1957 UNC National Championship basketball team.

HIGH ROCK NOON

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

(In response to *KOTAYAM MORNING*)
by Aimee Nezhukumathathil

by Allison McGuire

Cicadas rattle and trill
in the willow oak limbs,

humming seventeen years-worth
of buried love song. The air

still wet with last night's storm
but warm, clings to lip and lid.

Two hours in the same spot and
it's all honeysuckle-wind and whispers ::

wet wood and osprey splash :: sliders
stretch-necked on sunrock. The dock

boards gleam. My body melts through
the gaps in the hammock weave as

red, twisted diamonds
press into my skin. I want

to stay here, melting and
swaying until I'm nothing but

rope and rock and breeze myself.
My mother calls—her minnow words

slip through my fingers, too small
to disturb the lure of afternoon.

Allison McGuire is a junior biology major
minoring in creative writing. She was raised
in Clemmons, NC, but spent her summers at
her grandparents' home on High Rock Lake.

Reaction? Email tarheelverses@gmail.com

major from Indiana, Pennsylvania. "I was excited about the opportunity to share my work, but also hesitant to tell my parents about 'Death Valley' since it explores a portrait of my father that is not often discussed. My family was surprised by the poem. It helped to open up a conversation on Islam and how much I still have to learn."

Fittingly, given Young's collegiate athletic connection, two of the poems that have appeared so far have been by student athletes: football kicker Freeman Jones and swimmer Kate Boyer.

"Pat had a flair for words and always loved poetry," Young says of his wife. "I think *Tar Heel Verses* is a wonderful way to honor her memory."

Faculty News

MICHAEL CHITWOOD's new book, *Search & Rescue*, will be out next March from LSU. He has work in recent or forthcoming issues of *Poetry Northwest*, *Cortland Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Southern Poetry Review* and *Appalachian Journal*. Two of his poems were recently featured on *Poetry Daily*.

GABRIELLE CALVOCORESSI is the author of *The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart, Apocalyptic Swing* (a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Prize) and *Rocket Fantastic*, released by Persea Books in September 2017. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including a Stegner Fellowship and Jones Lectureship from Stanford University, a Rona Jaffe Writer's Award, a Lannan Foundation residency in Marfa, TX, the Bernard F. Connors Prize from *The Paris Review*, and a residency from the Civitella di Ranieri Foundation, among others. Her poems have been published in numerous magazines and journals including *The New York Times*, *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, and *Kenyon Review*. She is an Editor at Large at *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and co-curates the digital maker's space *Voluble*. She is working on a memoir entitled *The Year I Didn't Kill Myself*, and a novel, *The Alderman of the Graveyard*.

PAM DURBAN is currently working on a memoir with the working title *The Veteran in a New Field*, and two novella-length pieces of fiction.

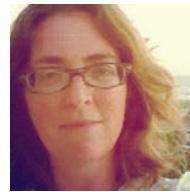
STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST, Assistant Professor and the Margaret R. Shuping Fellow of Creative Nonfiction, is the award-winning author of three travel memoirs—*Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana*; *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines*; and *All the Agents and Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands*—as well as the best-selling guidebook *100 Places Every Woman Should Go*. As a national correspondent for *The Odyssey*, she once drove 45,000 miles across America, documenting its history. She has won a Hodder Fellowship to Princeton, a Viebranz Professorship to St. Lawrence University, the Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize. A renowned speaker, Stephanie has taught and performed around the globe.

MARIANNE GINGHER spent a productive sabbatical completing a revised draft of a new novel and two new essays that are forthcoming. With her Jabberbox Puppet Theater collaborator, Debby Seabrooke, she also wrote, designed, produced, and performed a new puppet play for adults, "Beauty and the Botanist," based on a short story by Fred Chappell. Jabberbox Puppet Theater performed sixteen sold-out shows in Greensboro. Check out jabberboxpuppettheater.com

RANDALL KENAN edited a volume of essays, *The Carolina Table: North Carolina Writers on Food*. He was Visiting Writer-in-Residence at Vanderbilt University in the spring of 2017. He received the 2017 Sam Talmadge Ragan Award for Fine Arts from St. Andrews University.



Michael Chitwood



Gabrielle Calvocoressi



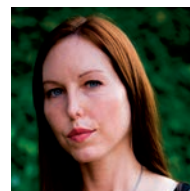
Pam Durban



Marianne Gingher



Stephanie Griest



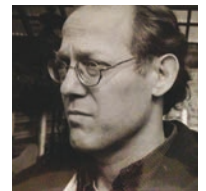
April Ayers Lawson



Randall Kenan



Michael McFee



Alan Shapiro



Bland Simpson



Daniel Wallace



Ross White

MIRIAM BERKLEY

IMAN WOODS

Faculty News

continued

His 2016 reportage on the reclamation of a cemetery in Richmond, VA, for *Garden & Gun* magazine will be included in 2017's *The Best American Travel Writing*. He has contributed a number of short stories and essays to numerous publications, and has given readings and lectures throughout the state and other places. He continues on the faculties of The Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Bread Load Writers' Conference.

APRIL AYERS LAWSON is the author of *Virgin and Other Stories* and winner of The Plimpton Award for Fiction. In addition to being named a best book of the year by *Vice*, *Bomb*, *Refinery29*, and *Southern Living*, *Virgin* is also being translated for publication in Germany, Italy, Norway, and Spain. Her writing has appeared in *Granta* and *Oxford American*, among others, and has been cited as notable in *Best American Short Stories*, and appears in *The Unprofessionals: New American Writing from The Paris Review*.

MICHAEL MCFEE published his fifteenth book, *We Were Once Here: Poem*, with Carnegie Mellon University Press in February 2017. Mercer University Press will bring out his second collection of essays, *Appointed Rounds*, early in 2018.

ALAN SHAPIRO published two books last fall: *Life Pig*, a book of poems, and *That Self-Forgetful Perfectly Useless Concentration*, a book of essays, both published by the University of Chicago Press.

BLAND SIMPSON performed his musical *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running* in Joslyn Hall, Morehead City, NC, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the North Carolina Coastal Federation and the 25th anniversary of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center (April 8th-9th, 2017); his ensemble The Red Clay Ramblers also celebrated these two anniversaries in an earlier show in the same hall (January 21st, 2017). He taught "Lyrics & Lyricists" and "Collaboration: Composers & Lyricists," each for the

third time since 2010, and he served as Interim Chair of the Department of English & Comparative Literature for 2016-2017.

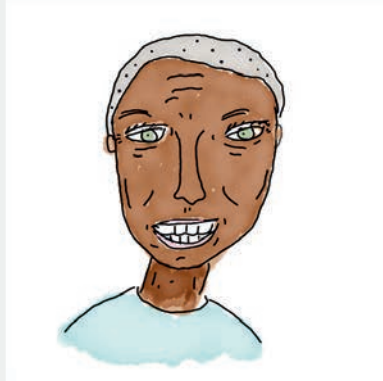
DANIEL WALLACE published his sixth novel, *Extraordinary Adventures*, in May 2017, with St. Martin's Press. A short story, "Sea Girls," was published in *Tin House*, and his essays and interviews in *Garden & Gun* and *Poets and Writers*. He directs the Creative Writing Program at Carolina.

ROSS WHITE's newest chapbook is *The Polite Society*, published by Unicorn Press in 2017. His manuscript in progress, *Guilt Ledger*, was selected by Edward Hirsch for the 2016 Larry Levis Post-Graduate Stipend from Warren Wilson College. His new work appears or is forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*, *Tin House*, *Barrow Street*, and *Nimrod*, among others. In April 2016, White became Poetry Editor for *Four Way Review*, and he continues to direct Bull City Press, which has expanded to publish fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM:



"The best."



"Love it."



"Awesome!"

WE are very pleased to publish this short story by Adam Price, who graduated with a minor in Creative Writing from UNC in 2011. This past year, for the first time, he was a lecturer in the program, and we welcomed him back with great enthusiasm. His fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Narrative*, *Epoch*, *Antioch Review*, and elsewhere. His debut novel, *The Grand Tour*, was published by Doubleday in 2016. He graduated from and teaches at UNC.



SUNDAY NIGHT

A short story by Adam O'Fallon Price

As a C2 Technician at Xenex Bird Circuits, your job is to solder resistors—little candy-striped cylinders that control voltage, and that slip so easily through your fingers, especially if you've been drinking too much beer or cheap whiskey the night before, as you often have, which causes your hands to tremble even more than they normally do (a congenital nervousness you quell and worsen with alcohol)—onto copper boards, ten hours a day, six days a week. On Sundays, Xenex rests, and so do you, sometimes sleeping through the entire day on your cousin's couch, only to awake in puzzling darkness. Outside, the city's power grid hums, dogs bark, motorbikes racket by. In the country, night meant quiet, utter quiet. Here, it's as though night is just a weak, insomniac brother to the day. You miss that quiet most of all, but the farm was rationalized a year ago, and there is no returning. Besides, as your cousin often reminds you, you're lucky he could get you the job.

The resistors are parceled out beforehand, three per circuit board, so if one bounces off the work table and vanishes into the sooty oblivion underfoot, you can't simply grab another from the box. You must raise your hand and wait in shame for the floor supervisor—a loathsome boy named Bao, five years your junior and son of a higher-up on the city planning commission—to come over and dispense you another from a tin box on his utility belt. This he does with great, disappointed pomp, largely for the benefit of the girl, whom you both love.

The girl: she works across from you, ten hours a day, six days a week, and you have never spoken to her. Though she did to you, once. It was March, and outside, water stood in greasy, rainbow pools. You were leaving to eat your lunch in the nearby park, a sandy place with chipped-paint benches and a statue of some everlasting hero of the revolution. A voice from behind said, "Bao?"

You turned, and she saw her mistake. That night, you imagined your cousin's couch was a marriage bed in the country, with her beside you in the vast silence. Conjuring a similar scene at work, stealing a glance across the table, you tremble with hungover lust and drop a resistor. Up goes your hand and over comes Bao, shaking his head, dispensing a replacement, ticking a mark on the chalkboard, docking your pay. There are nine ticks under your name. The girl doesn't notice, or pretends not to, and in these moments, you are grateful for her disregard.

Your cousin makes fish broth for dinner, and as you both eat he speaks of his dreams. A new scooter, a bachelor's jag to Macau. What are your dreams? Besides the girl, nothing—just a restive darkness like Sunday night. Your cousin asks how things are, and you say you can't complain, because, really, you can't.

Alumni News



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

At Carolina, we realize writing is a pursuit that takes place over the course of a lifetime. We want to hear about it. If you have some news you'd like to share with your Carolina friends, family, and former teachers, please send it our way, at C&V@unc.edu. Whether you're making books, making babies, or simply making a life, we'd love to hear from you.

CLASS OF 1972

Tim Tarkington is retiring August 1st after thirty years of teaching at DeKalb College, which became Georgia Perimeter College, which was absorbed by Georgia State University. Tim wrote, "I was encouraged by Constance Rooke, Ron Moran, Charles D. Wright, Max Steele, Louis Rubin and especially Carolyn Kizer, who urged me to continue writing and then go to the UNC-G MFA Program. Without these inspiring teachers of writing, I may not have had the chance to have the depth of experience in writing and reading I have been able to enjoy my entire life since coming to Chapel Hill."

CLASS OF 1977

Warren Rochelle's latest short story, "Finroc macFinniel Silmaire," was published in the inaugural issue of *Empty Oaks*. His fourth novel, *The Werewolf and His Boy* was published by Samhain Publishing in September 2016.

CLASS OF 1988

Scott Martin Scott Martin is a direct response copywriter. He lives in Colorado, where he is at work on his second novel. He also teaches skiing, part-time

CLASS OF 1995

Melanie Hutsell published her debut novel *The Dead Shall Rise* in 2016.

CLASS OF 1996

Thanassis Cambanis' blog can be found at thanassiscambanis.com. His newest book is *Arab Politics beyond the Uprisings*.

Dan Kois is traveling the world this year with his wife and kids, and chronicling the damage in a memoir, *How to Be a Family*, to be published by Little, Brown in 2018. He's also co-writing (with Isaac Butler) a history of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, titled *The World Only Spins Forward*, which will be published by Bloomsbury in 2017.

CLASS OF 1998

Laura Emerson was fifty-one years old at the time of her graduation. She retired in 2013. Now living in San Luis Obispo, she is currently working on a book about the history of California.

Jennifer Young won the Cinnamon Press Debut Novel Prize in 2016, and her novel *Cold Crash* will be published in November 2017. *Cold Crash* is a historical thriller set in 1952, in which archaeologist Dr. Maxine 'Max' Falkland finds herself in the middle of a Soviet military plot on the Isle of Mull. Further information can be found at maxfalkland.com.

CLASS OF 1999

Luke Meisner continues to practice international trade law in the D.C. offices of the law firm of Skadden Arps. The political climate for international trade and the current administration's moves in this arena keep his day-to-day practice challenging and in constant flux. Fortunately, Luke's five year-old daughter, Veda, and seven-year-old son, Kavi, indulge Luke's need for creative outlet by gamely listening to his original bedtime stories, in particular the ongoing adventures of Bunny and Lizard.

CLASS OF 2000

Lisa Bennett has been working as a middle school teacher in Chapel Hill since 2014, and taught her first creative writing class this past spring. She is very grateful to the amazing professors she had while at UNC: Seay, Harmon, Shapiro, and McFee.

CLASS OF 2001

Stuart Albright is a Milken National Educator Awardee and English/Creative Writing teacher at Jordan High School in Durham, NC, and has published his fifth book, *A World Beyond Home: The Education of a Poet, an Athlete, and a New Generation of Students*.

CLASS OF 2002

Marian Crotty won the John Simmons Award for her short story collection, *What Counts as Love*, which will be published by The University of Iowa Press in October.

CLASS OF 2003

Atinuke Diver recently relocated from Boston, MA to Raleigh, NC. Earlier this year she began working in the Office of the Chancellor at UNC Chapel Hill as Associate Director for Ethics Education and Policy Management.

CLASS OF 2004

Teresa Cooper has graduated from Walden University with an MS in Education, writes for *The Mighty*, *The Educator's Room*, and *The Huffington Post*, and has a well-known blog, *Embracing the Spectrum*.

CLASS OF 2005

Dianna Calareso lives in the Boston area with her husband and two-year old daughter, Jolene. After twelve years of a writing/editing career in the corporate world, she is applying to nursing school. She's looking forward to telling new stories.

Timur Hammond will be joining the Department of Geography at Syracuse University.

Lauren Moseley's first book of poems, *Big Windows*, will be published in February 2018 by Carnegie Mellon University Press.

Joanna (Wiley) Volavka recently signed with 50/50 Press and her debut YA sci-fi novel, *Threadwalkers*, will be published this fall. More information about the novel can be found on her website: joannavolavka.com/threadwalkers

CLASS OF 2006

Jared Fernley was married last year, on a beach in Delaware, joined that day by two proud alumni of the '06 creative writing honors thesis class. Since then he has appeared as a good ole boy duck-hunter on the Amazon series "Patriot" and as a very serious lieutenant on NBC's "Chicago Fire."

CLASS OF 2007

Marielle Prince is happy to announce she's become a cat person. Furthermore, she's finished her first book manuscript and is trying to get that published. She was married two years ago to a poetry-loving accountant (dreams do come true!), and Michael McFee read a poem at their wedding. She is living in Charlottesville, VA, and working as production editor for an early childhood education training company by day and poetry editor of *The Collagist* by night. Recently(ish) she's had poems appear in *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Nashville Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *story South*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, and *Yemassee*.

Mia Yang has been tripping over teething toys in the dark for 3 a.m. breastfeeding sessions. Some days sleep deprivation makes her relate acutely to her dementia patients. She is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. She is finding joy in her work as a geriatrician and a new mother, bemused at life's similarities at the beginning and the end.

CLASS OF 2008

Nate Dixon has finished an MA in English at NC Central University and will enter the PhD program in English at the University of Georgia, Athens, this fall.

Kirk Francis left his Homeland Security contract in 2012 and has been masquerading as Captain Cookie ever since. After six years, he has a bakery and four cookie trucks that operate daily in DC, NC, and Virginia. He and Juliann Francis ('10) run the business together and have a 1.5-year-old toddler named Jacob! In September of this year they're opening Tastemakers, a 9,000 square foot incubator kitchen, food court, and bar. Tastemakers will be at 2800 10th St. NE in DC and should be pretty cool. Sadly Kirk has only been using his creative writing skills for clever tweets @captaincookieDC but he has grand plans for a cookbook and eventual food truck book.

Katherine Meehan is happily off to Oxford this fall in pursuit of her MA degree. Over the past several years she has married, had a baby boy, and lived in the UK. She has completed a novel manuscript and also had a few short stories published.

CLASS OF 2009

Rayna McClendon lives in Los Angeles, CA, writing for television. She currently writes on *Damnation*, a period piece drama for USA Network, slated to premiere this fall. Previously, she has written freelance episodes for The Disney Channel's *Andi Mack* and MTV's *Finding Carter*. In 2016 she was selected as one of eight television writers for the NBC Writers on the Verge Program, an intense writers' boot camp that honed her skills as a storyteller and as a high-functioning insomniac.

Travis Smith received his MFA in poetry from the University of Mississippi in 2013. In 2016 his chapbook-in-cards, *Zodiac B*, was published by Ninepin Press in Amherst, MA. His poems have appeared recently in *Little Star* and *The Winter Anthology*. He lives in Chapel Hill and works at Algonquin Books and Flyleaf Books.

CLASS OF 2010

Daniel Bullock received his masters in City and Regional Planning, UNC, class of 2017. He is now in Portland, where is Project Manager for CASA of Oregon.

Zena Cardman has been selected to join NASA's latest class of astronaut candidates. Read a full story about Zena by Mary Lide Parker at the *Endeavors* website, endeavors.unc.edu. Also, read about her at NASA's website, nasa.gov.

Delaney Nolan is finishing her Fulbright year as a dual-country student-researcher in Creative Writing. She received her MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop last year, and is currently at work on a novel. Her fiction has been published in various magazines and recently received a Pushcart Prize.



CLASS OF 2012

Linnie Greene recently relocated from San Francisco, CA, to New York, NY, where she's the newly-appointed Assistant Marketing Manager in Global Medicine at Oxford University Press. She continues to freelance, and her most recent publication is a piece of short fiction in *The Nervous Breakdown*. She's at work on a novel, like everyone else.

CLASS OF 2013

Madison Bakalar is a bookseller at Brattle Book Shop in Brighton, MA.

Sarah Brady is now Program Coordinator for UNC's World View program: worldview.unc.edu/sarah-brady-tapped-as-world-view-program-coordinator/

Melanie Rio has just finished her MA in Shakespeare Studies at King's College London and Shakespeare's Globe, and is starting her PhD in early modern English as a Flagship Fellow at the University of Maryland. Her first novel, *If We Were Villains*, was published by Flatiron Books in April 2017 under the pseudonym M. L. Rio. She is working with her agent on revising her next book.

CLASS OF 2014

Zoe Ackerman is Associate Program Director of the Rachel Carson Council of Bethesda, Maryland: <http://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/about/rcc-staff/>

Cary Simpson is finishing her MFA in Theatre Management at Columbia University's School of the Arts. She has worked at the New York Theatre Workshop and the Theatre Development Fund.

CLASS OF 2015

Carson McKee has moved to New York City after a year in France teaching English. He is pursuing his music career with longtime musician-mate Josh Turner and will support himself by working as an English Editor at Morningside Translations.

IN MEMORIAM

Nina Riggs, Lecturer in Creative Writing for nearly a decade, passed away in February. She received her BA with Highest Honors in Creative Writing from UNC in 1999. She published a chapbook of poems, *Lucky, Lucky*, in 2009, and her prose book *The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying* was published by Simon & Schuster in June 2017. Exploring motherhood, marriage, friendship, and memory, even as she wrestles with the legacy of her great-great-grandfather, Ralph Waldo Emerson, she asks, What makes a meaningful life when one has limited time?



Her former teacher and longtime friend Professor Michael McFee says: "Nina was one of the most intelligent, passionate, talented and delightful people I've ever known. She came to Carolina from Beaufort, NC (by way of Milton Academy in MA), talked her way into my Introduction to Poetry Writing class as a freshman, and blew everybody away with her poems. Nina wrote one of the best senior Honors in Poetry Writing theses I've ever directed, earned her MFA at UNC-Greensboro, and was a very welcome presence in our Creative Writing Program from 2005 to 2013, teaching Intro with great energy and wit and insightful concern for the students. What luck, to have had such a fine writer and teacher, and such a wonderful person, work with our undergraduate poets for so many years."

SUPPORT THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT CAROLINA

Please consider making a gift to the Creative Writing Program to support our superlative students and first-rate faculty. You can make a contribution online via our secure website at giving.unc.edu/gift and search for "Creative Writing Program" or "101165," or by mailing a check to the

UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation, 134 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (please note in the memo section of your check that your gift is intended for the Creative Writing Program). For more information about giving opportunities within the program, please contact Angela O'Neill, Assistant Director of Development, at 919-843-2745 or angela.oneill@unc.edu.





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