

# Fall 2011

## CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT

San Francisco State University

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### Dear Students, Faculty and Alumni,

I am writing to welcome you to Fall semester 2011. After months of uncertainty and a year of unsettling institutional reorganization, we are pleased to have remained part of our old but now much larger and renamed College of Arts and Humanities. It was our goal to stay where we were in a sound and longstanding relationship in the university to our college and with the fine support for our efforts of Dean Paul Sherwin, Associate Dean Susan Shimanoff, and excellent support staff. We also thank President Corrigan for understanding our place in the university and responding so kindly to letters sent by some of our most distinguished alumni on our behalf.

Though the budget crisis remains a very real feature of the 2011-12 academic year with more cuts threatened and our students paying higher fees, our class offering has remained substantial and fairly steady. You will find most of what you need to advance in our programs. With our classes, our fine magazines, our Poetry Center, and our playwriting program's offerings in Theater Arts, you will find ways to fulfill yourselves and make yourselves part of our community. Many of you have started reading series of your own, magazines, blogs, and showcases, and I congratulate you on your efforts. I especially want to praise *Transfer*, our undergraduate-run journal, which published its 100<sup>th</sup> issue last Fall and the Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives that has established an exciting digitized presence on DIVA. Also, since many interesting departments have joined our newly reorganized college, possible collaborations with programs such as music, art (including book arts), theater, cinema, broadcast communications, history and other disciplines will be explored.

If you are a graduate of our program reading this newsletter, I appeal to you for help in these hard times. The department is once again without a substantial budget for even the simplest supplies, not to mention greater goals such as more scholarships, sending students to conferences, and paying directors to assist with student plays. Let's work to continue to enrich the lives of our B.A., M.A. and M.F.A. writers and to lobby our national and state governments to make education a serious and constant priority.

Congratulations to the many of you who have published and had your work produced, who have edited anthologies and magazines, who have taught workshops and classes for children and adults, and who have enriched the writing community. We wish you continued growth in your writing and professional lives. Let us know when you do well – we are proud of you.

Sincerely,  
Maxine Chernoff

### NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS

#### Faculty

**Michelle Carter** was commissioned to write a play for Symmetry Theatre, *Patience Worth*, which will open in September. Michelle received a grant from the SFSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to work on a radio play adaptation and a CD recording of *Dreamspiel: A Ukelele Opera* with the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. **Nona Caspers** was promoted to Professor and she received a Cultural Equity Grant from the San Francisco Arts Foundation. Nona has work in and forthcoming in *Black Warrior Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Arroyo Literary Review* and *Green Mountains Review*. She received an Open Fiction Award from *Glimmer Train* and they featured her metafictional essay "The Horse" in their *Glimmer Train Writer's Bulletin*. **Maxine Chernoff's** poetry collection *A House in Summer* is available, free, as an ebook from Argotist Online. Maxine will publish two poetry collections: *To Be Read in the Dark* (Omnidawn, October 2011) and *Without* (Shearsman, 2012). Maxine's work also appeared in *Fourteen Hills*, *The Nation*, *Conjunctions*, *Iowa Review* and *Denver Quarterly*. **Anne Galjour's** collaboration with the Robert Moses Kin Dance Company, *Fable and Faith*, premiered at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in February 2011. **Paul Hoover's** bilingual poetry volume, *En el idioma y en la tierra*, translated by Maria Baranda, will be published by Conculca, Mexico City, Fall 2011; in late Spring he toured Vietnam with the country's leading poets, Nguyen Duy, Pham Xuan Nguyen, head of the Hanoi Writers Association, and his co-translator, Nguyen Do, to read from *Beyond the Court Gate: Selected Poems of Nguyen Trai* (Counterpath Press, 2011). The group was interviewed on national television and radio and featured in all the leading newspapers. **Donna de la Perriere's** book, *Saint Erasure*, was released from Talisman House December 2010; Donna continues to curate The Bay Area Poetry Marathon. **Camille Dungy's** latest poetry collection is *Smith Blue* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2011). She is the recipient of the 2011 Northern California Book Award in poetry, a Silver Medal Winner in the 80<sup>th</sup> California Book Award and a NAACP Image Award nominee for *Suck on the Marrow* (Red Hen Press, 2010). She has also been shortlisted for the 2011 *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award. Camille has been promoted to Professor and awarded tenure here. **Toni Mirosevich's** new book of poems, *The Takeaway Bin*, was released by Spuyten Duyvil Press in 2010 as an outgrowth of her chapbook *My Oblique Strategies* (Frank O'Hara Award, 2005). Toni's work also appeared in *Eleven Eleven*, and *Fourteen Hills*, issue 17.2 alongside an interview. Toni is also the recipient of an ORSP grant. **Camilly Roy's** collection of poetry, *Sherwood Forest*,

was released in April 2011 (Futurepoem Books). This July, **Alice La Plante's** first novel, *Turn of Mind* was published by Atlantic Monthly Press. **Stacy Doris's** latest book of poetry, *The Cake Part*, is available from Publication Studio. **Peter Orner's** new novel, *Love and Shame and Love* will be published by Little, Brown this November; it has been excerpted in *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, *Ploughshares*, and *New American Writing*. Peter co-edited with Annie Holmes (MFA 2008) *Don't Listen to What I'm About to Say*, a non-fiction collection of Zimbabwean narratives released in South Africa by Jonathon Ball Publishers. **Dan Langton's** 7<sup>th</sup> collection of poems, *During Our Walks*, came out from Blue Light Press. **Steve Dickson** reports that the American Poetry Archives has launched their digitized library, and the first years are available online through DIVA.

### Former Faculty

**C.D. Wright**, received the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry for her collection *One With Others: A Little Book of Her Days*.

### Alumni

**Lizzie Acker's** (MFA 2010) first book, *Monster Party*, was published by Small Desk Press in December 2010. **Rae Armantrout** (MA 1975) won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection, *Versed* (Wesleyan University Press, 2009). **Rafaella Del Bourgo** (MA 1995) shared the 2010 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award with Kathleen Spivack. Her poem "Olive Oil" will be published in the *Paterson Literary Review*. **Sandra Dutton** (MA 1980) explores the debate between creationism and evolution through the eyes of a 10 year old girl in her new children's book *Mary Mae and the Gospel Truth*. **Grant Faulker** (MA 1994) published a flash fiction piece, "Heat," in the online literary magazine, *Word Riot*. He was also a runner-up for the Southwest Review's David Nathan Meyerson Fiction Prize for his story, "The Names of All Things." **Elizabeth Gjelten's** (MFA 2007) play, *Hunter's Point*, will be produced by Strange Angels Theater, with producing partner Jump! Theatre, led by **Robert D'Alois** (MFA candidate), at the St. Boniface Church Theater in San Francisco, September 16-October 2, 2011. The play was also selected for the 2010 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. **Toni Graham** (MA 1992) has a short story published in *Arroyo Literary Review*, issue 3. **Vinnie Hansen** (MA 1980) has a short story, "Rooster and the Buster Brown Shoes," in the 25th anniversary edition of *The Porter Gulch Review*. **Christopher Hayter** (MFA 2011) will pursue a PhD in Creative Writing from Georgia State University, where he will receive full funding including tuition waiver and a generous six year stipend. He wishes to thank all the faculty and peers who helped him along the way. **Nina LaCour** (BA 2004) published her first novel, *Hold Still*, with Dutton Books in 2009, and her second book, *The Disenchantments*, is forthcoming in 2012. She is currently teaching a series of workshops on the craft of young adult fiction in San Francisco. **Lily Iona MacKenzie** (MA 1993) will have her poetry collection *All This* published by Little Red Tree Publishing in September 2011. **Linda Watanabe McFerrin's** (MA 1991) novel, *Dead Love*, is a 2010 Bram Stoker Award

Nominee for Superior Achievement in a Novel. **Kristi Moos** (MFA 2010) is now Assistant to the Publisher at Heyday Books of Berkeley. She recently started a literary journal called *Poecology* ([www.poecology.org](http://www.poecology.org)). **Aífe Murray's** (MA 1994) *Maid as Muse: How Servants Changed Emily Dickinson's Life and Language* was nominated in the category of General Nonfiction in the 30th annual Northern California Book Awards. **Jesse Nissim** (MFA 2005) was published in the *Arroyo Literary Review*. **Sandra Park's** (MFA 2005) novella, *If You Live in a Small House* (Mutual Publishing, 2010) goes into a second printing this year; prose poems "Hagiography" and "Hagiography 2" appear in *CrossBRONX* and *The Walrus*; poetry and nonfiction forthcoming in *Meridian*, University of Virginia and two anthologies. Her work was nominated by *St. Petersburg Review* for Best New Poets 2011, and for a Ka Palapala Po'okela book award in Honolulu. **Josh Pelletier** (MFA 2011) published a Kindle Edition of his novel, *On Our Way Home*, which ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> within the first day. **Barbara Jane Reyes** (MFA 2005) had a short story published in issue 3 of the *Arroyo Literary Journal*. **Sarah Rosenthal** (MFA 1999) was interviewed about her book, *A Community Writing Itself: Conversations with Vanguard Writers of the Bay Area* for the launch of Poet As Radio, a new radio program hosted by Bay Area poets on KUSF. **Canyon Sam** (MFA 1998) received a fellowship from the Center for Asian American Media to write a screenplay based on her PEN Award winner, *Sky Train: Tibetan Women on the Edge of History*. She will be teaching Creative Nonfiction at Mills College this fall. **Philip Schultz** (BA English, 1967), 2008 Pulitzer Prize Winner for his sixth collection of poetry, *Failure*, was inducted into the SFSU Alumni Hall of Fame in May 2011. **Nina Schuyler** (MFA 2003) sold her second novel, *Accidental Birds*, to Vagabondage Press. One of her short stories, "The Bob Society," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She continues to teach creative writing at the University of San Francisco. **Laurie Sleeper's** (MFA 2004) short story, "Naomi and the Writer" won the Page to Stage story contest, a collaboration between Stories on Stage and the Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver, Colorado. Her story was performed by Stories on Stage in November, 2010. **Roz Spafford** (MA 1979) won the 2010 David Nathan Meyerson Prize for her short story, "Drought." She received \$1,000 and her story was published in Volume 95, Number 4 of the *Southwest Review*. **Chad Sweeney's** (MFA 2006) collection of poems *Parable of Hide and Seek* was released by Alice James Books, October 2010, he has a short story in the third edition of *Arroyo Literary Review*. He was hired as an assistant Professor at CSU, San Bernardino. **Joan Tolifson** (MA 1989) published a new book, *Painting the Sidewalk with Water: Talks and Dialogs about Nonduality*, Non-Duality Press, 2010. **Don Waters** (MFA 2004) received a 2010 Christopher Isherwood Foundation Fiction Fellowship of \$4,000. **Gabriella West's** (MA 1995) coming-of-age novel, *The Leaving* was published as an ebook on Smash-words. **Theresa A. Yob** (MA 2001, BA 1998) was a contributing writer for an article entitled "On the Woman's Side," which was published in the September 2010 issue of *International Tennis Magazine*. Theresa

also wrote lyrics for the song, "Heart and Soul Haiti," recorded by Haitian singer Ronald Agenor. **Mike Freeman's** (MA 2000) first book, *Drifting: Two Weeks on the Hudson* will be released by the State University of New York Press. **Brixton Key's** (MFA 2011) first novel, *Charlie Six*, was released in June. **Annie Holmes** (MFA 2008) co-edited with Peter Orner *Don't Listen to What I'm About to Say*, a non-fiction collection of Zimbabwean narratives, released in South Africa by Jonathon Ball Publishers. **Valerie S Hart's** (MFA 2008) had her first full theater production. Her play, *Rising & Falling*, was produced by Rhubarb Theater Company, Nashville TN, this August. **Forrest Gander** (MA 1981) won a 2011 Witter Bynner Fellowship and a reading at the Library of Congress. **Quintan Ana Wikswo's** (MFA 2002) exhibit *Prophecy of Place: photographs, poetry, video and assemblage* will be on display at the Yeshiva University Museum at the Center for Jewish History in New York, August 14, 2011 – February 15, 2012. **Daniel Orozco's** (MA 1992) first story collection, *Orientation And Other Stories* (Faber & Faber, 2011) made the NY Times Book Review Editors' Choice in July. **Jane Ciabattari** (MA 1981) has work in the second issue of *The Litarian*, another piece will be anthologised in *Long Island Noir*, due out in Spring 2012 from Akashic Books. Jane will moderate a conversation /reading with NBCC prose finalists and winners, "Urban Mirrors," at The New School, and at the 2012 AWP conference in Chicago will host a National Book Critics Circle reading. Jane is currently NBCC Vice President/Online, after having served as NBCC president for the last three years. **François Luong** (MFA 2010) was a contributing editor and translated the work of eleven Québécois poets in *New American Writing # 29*. **Harold Terezon** (MFA 2010) had work included in *Strange Cargo, an Emerging Voices Anthology* (Pen Center USA, 2010). The San Francisco Foundation has chosen **Anhvu Buchanan** (MFA 2010) the 2010 James Duval Phelan Award for his poetry manuscript *The Disorder Index*, **Roxanne Beth Johnson** (MFA 2011) for the 2010 Joseph Henry Jackson Award for her poetry manuscript *Junkyard Sermon* -whose second book, *Black Crow Dress*, will be published in 2012 by Alice James Books – and **Dustin Heron** (MA 2009) for the 2010 Tanenbaum Award for his manuscript *My Soul is a Toy That Never Breaks*.

### Students

**Andrea Alban** (MA candidate) recently published a young adult novel, *Anya's War* (Fiewel & Friends, 2011). Based on her own family's history, Andrea's novel follows a Jewish teenager and her family as they seek refuge in Shanghai during WWII. **Roberta D'Alois** (MFA candidate) is the recipient of the Jan Gregory Postsecondary Reading and Composition Scholarship, the Edward B. Kaufmann Scholarship in the Humanities, and the SFSU Alumni Scholarship for outstanding achievement in graduate work. Roberta is the producing artistic director of Jump! Theatre, which is partnering with Playwrights Foundation and Strange Angels in September 2011 for the premiere of *Hunter's Point* by SFSU alum **Elizabeth Gjelten** (MFA 2007). **Shideh Etaat** (MFA 2011) re-

ceived a waitership (a work-study scholarship) at the Breadloaf Writer's Conference in August 2011. **Adam Hofbauer's** (MFA candidate) short stories have appeared in the *Decameron Annual Review*, *Kaleidotrope*, *63 Channels*, *Gold Dust Magazine*, *Diagonal Proof*, and *Slingshot*. He was also nominated for a Best of the Net Award and a Pushcart. **Keely Hyslop** (MFA candidate) was the winner of the Michael Rubin Book Award for her poetry manuscript, *Things I Say to Pirates on Nights When I Miss You*, which will be designed by **Annemarie Munn** (MFA candidate) and published by Fourteen Hills in Fall 2011. Keely was featured in *sPARKLE & bLINK 8 & 10* and performed at the Quiet Lightning reading series in August 2010 and the Quiet Lightning Litcrawl event in October 2010. Also in the Fall of 2010 her poem, "Trailer Trash Barbie" was featured in the *Altered Barbie Anthology*. In Spring 2011 she won the San Francisco Browning Society's dramatic monologue competition for her poem, "Georgia O'Keefe Laughing." Her poem, "When the World Inside Her Leaves Us" was also featured in the May 2011 *Foundling Review*, an online literary journal. **Dayna Ingram** (MFA candidate) published her novel, *Sleep Like This* (CreateSpace, 2010). **Robert Ricardo Reese** (MFA candidate) was published in the anthology *Poems Against War: Bending Towards Justice* (Wasteland Press, 2010). Robert is featured alongside, among others, former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. **Kate Moses's** (MFA candidate) memoir, *Cakewalk* (Dial Press, 2010), was a finalist for the 2011 Northern California Book Award in Creative Non Fiction. *Cakewalk* was also selected for inclusion in 2010 "best book of the year" roundups by National Public Radio, SeriousEats.com, and Foods52.com. **Natacha Ruck's** (MFA candidate) English translation of the French graphic novel, *Madwoman of the Sacred Heart*, by Judorowsky and Mœbius (Humanoids, Inc. 2011), was released in early 2011. **Gretchen Schnitzer** (MFA candidate) had a poem accepted by *rogger: an art and literary magazine*. **Sandra Wassilie** (MA 2011, MFA candidate) was awarded first place for the Ann Fields Poetry Prize for 2011. **Jessica Hahn-Taylor** (MFA Candidate) participated in the Far West Popular Culture Association Conference, the 17th Annual Southern Writers/Southern Writing Conference, and was chosen for an Andrews Forest Writers Residency for Fall 2011. Jessica has work published in the July issue of *Ontologica: A Journal of Art and Thought* and the May issue of *Generations of Poetry*. **Dan Lau** (MA candidate) received an Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker scholarship from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and had poems published in *The Collagist* and *CRATE*. **Evan Winchester** (MFA candidate) is almost finished shooting a film adaptation of his play *Low Shoulders*. **Pam Benjamin** (MFA candidate, MA 2010) second episodic journey "Voices" is being released on August 4th, 2011. She is the host of "Karaoke Clubhouse" on Mutiny, local community radio. **Hollie Hardy's** (MFA candidate) poems have recently been published or are forthcoming from *Eleven Eleven*, *The Common*, *The Common Online A Sharp Piece of Awesome*, *sPARKLE & bLINK*, and *One Ded Cow* and will be curating Litquake's second annual Flight of Poets on Oc-

tober 13th at the Hotel Rex in San Francisco. **Susan Calvillo**(MFA candidate) had poetry published in the 2011 issue of *Ghost Town*, and her poem "His Secret Garden" was editors' choice and published in *Compass Rose Volume XI*. **Emily Wilson** (MFA candidate) had a piece anthologized in *The Violets Have Broken The Rocks*, published by 2nd Floor Projects.

For more student publications, see [www.sfsu.edu/~cwriting/students.html](http://www.sfsu.edu/~cwriting/students.html) And, if your publication(s) is/are not listed, please email us and the next time the website is updated, it will be included.

#### MILESTONES

**Mark Linenthal** poetry professor here from 1954 to 1992, died September 5, 2010. Mark Linenthal co-founded the Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives, having served as its director 1966-1972.

**Norma Shattuck**, who received her MA in poetry, 1986, has died at 77. She had been a journalist and sometimes wrote op-eds for the Chronicle.

#### ADVISING:

All tenure/tenure-track faculty are advisors. Pick up a list of advisors at the Creative Writing office, HUM 380. See any of them during their office hours for any questions about your degree program. Undergraduates, Dan Langton is the G.E. Advisor for the department.

#### DEPARTMENT NEWS

For those of you wanting to apply to our **graduate programs**, the application **DUE DATE** is **DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Students, past and present, faculty past and present: your Creative Writing Department wants to hear from you! Please send us your news for the next Newsletter, to be published Winter 2012.

**BIG THANK YOU'S** to all of you who have been so generous in your giving over the years; without your help, the department would have to do out without the many things that make our lives easier. **And this year, we really are in need – as our department continues to receive no operating budget, and we are dependent upon your generosity more than ever before, for not only scholarships for our deserving students, our membership fee for AWP, journal subscriptions, the occasional honorary stipend for guest speakers, judges, etc. but also for basic office supplies like paper, whiteout, and post-its.**

Your tax deductible contribution to The Creative Writing Department Fund, literary journals and scholarship accounts may be mailed; make the check payable to University Corporation, San Francisco State and be sure to indicate on the memo line and in a brief cover letter the account to which you wish to contribute (a list of our account names following). Please mail your donations to

San Francisco State University  
Office of University Development  
Administration Building 153  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132

Our **other donation accounts** are: \*14 Hills Literary Journal, \*Ann Fields Poetry Award, \*Bambi Holmes Award, \*Clark-Gross Novel Award, \*Tillie Olsen Award for Socially Conscious Writing, \*Transfer Magazine, \*Wilner Short Fiction Award, \*Wordsmith Guild. Remember to write the appropriate account on the memo line of your check.

**Additional donations** may be made to one of our **endowment accounts**, which fund other scholarships and awards. The **mailing address is the same, but make your check payable to San Francisco State Foundation**. On the subject line please indicate one of the following accounts: \*James Milton Highsmith Endowment, \*Miriam Ylvisaker Endowment, \*Manoogian Endowment \*William Dickey Endowment.

**EVENTS:** Add your voice to the Creative Writing Department by attending events and contributing to the department magazines and contests. Be sure to sign up for the email list and to watch our bulletin boards outside the department office (HUM 380) and by HUM 128 and for news of local events, publications, and contests.

Also, pick up a Poetry Center Schedule at HUM 380 or HUM 512 (The Poetry Center). You may also view their current calendar online: [www.sfsu.edu/~poetry](http://www.sfsu.edu/~poetry).

Students, to start receiving events through the student e-mail list? E-mail [cw-students-request@sfsu.edu](mailto:cw-students-request@sfsu.edu), no subject; in the body of the message, type the word subscribe. (And to get off the email list, do the same thing, except type "unsubscribe" in the message.)

Alumni, do you who want to be on our Alumni e-mail list? Email us, [cwriting@sfsu.edu](mailto:cwriting@sfsu.edu), with your e-mail address, requesting to be added to the list.

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