

Fall 2014

CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT

San Francisco State University

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Dear Students, Faculty, Alums, and Friends:

Welcome to fall 2014. I hope your summer was productive and full of good moments. We have bid a fond farewell to our long-serving dean, Paul Sherwin, and have welcomed our interim dean, Daniel Bernardi, formerly chair of Cinema. We also welcome tenure-track poet Andrew Joron, who will also teach speculative fiction, and Peter Nachtrieb, a prolific alum of our program, who will teach a graduate workshop in playwriting. We will miss Brian Thorstensen, a hugely talented teacher, actor, and playwright, who has taken a full-time job elsewhere. We welcome 5 new GTAs to teach our introductory level courses, 101, 301, and 302. With ZZ Packer, Camille Dungy and Paul Hoover all on leave for the semester or year, the rest of us will work hard to teach you, advise you, and create a dynamic community of undergraduate and graduate writers. We are offering a new Literature of Ecology class and a full range of classes in our newest genre, creative non-fiction, and we are assigning graduate students permanent advisors to help them navigate all of the choices and paths our program offers.

With the university having made a recent decision not to fund printed journals with Instructionally Related Activities monies past this year, I wish to stress that there is *no better time than now* to generously donate to our program. *Transfer Magazine*, going into its 56th year, and 20 year-old *14 Hills* need funds to continue their splendid publication records. Meanwhile, *New American Writing* as well has lost both its outside and school-related funding sources. The dean has promised a year of support for the 2 student-run journals, but we will eventually need about \$15,000-\$20,000 a year to keep the three magazines going beyond that point.

Remember that the students of today are the writers of tomorrow: *Transfer* decades ago published Ernest Gaines, Jr., and Anne Rice, both SF State Creative Writing students, before they became household names. Please help us meet this goal, which will also assure that the generous Michael Rubin prize, a published book of fiction or poetry, can still be awarded yearly to a worthy graduate student.

If you are interested in giving a substantial gift, feel free to call me at (415)338-2019 or to email me at chernoff@sfsu.edu or simply make out a check to the Creative Writing Department with its project stipulated: magazines, *Transfer*, *14 Hills*, Michael Rubin, or *New American Writing*.

Outside contributions have already established significant funding sources for our graduate students with the continued William Dickey Awards of \$5000 to 3-5 new graduate students a year. In addition, I was able to secure a

large donation from a foundation to establish the Joe Brainard Fellowship, which will go to 3 entering MFAs in the amount of \$5000 each year. Smaller amounts are also available through the Ylvisiker Award, the Manoogian Award, and the new Dr. Melanie Sperling Award. One of our out-of-state students annually receives the Provost Award from the university to pay in-state tuition for a year.

We will continue to need help to continue to bring resources to the department and to our deserving students. As housing costs in San Francisco soar, funding becomes ever more critical.

If you are a student, have a wonderful semester. Enjoy our staged productions of plays, our poetry and fiction readings at the Poetry Center, Writers on Writing, and at the student-run Velvet Revolution. Take the magazine courses or Community Projects in Literature to become more involved in the magazines or Poetry Center or running the student readings.

And let us all applaud the Poetry Center and American Poetry Archives, the largest archive of its kind in the United States, as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary year with its 2014-15 series and its lively online presence at DIVA.

Visit us if you live in the vicinity to catch up with our readings and events or tour the Poetry Center. I look forward to seeing many of you and to hearing and reading of your accomplishments.

All best,

Maxine Chernoff, Chair of CW

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Faculty

Maxine Chernoff's latest volume of poetry is, *Here* (Counterpath Press, 2014), her essay "What the Left Needs to Be Heard" published in *Tikkun Spring 2014*, can be read online at www.tikkun.org; *Selected Poems of Friedrich Holderlin* is in its 3rd printing. **Paul Hoover**, co-translator and co-editor of *Selected Poems of Friedrich Holderlin*, has five poems in the forthcoming *Conjunctions 63: Speaking Volumes* (Fall 2014). His translation of Maria Baranda's *Yegua nocturna corriendo en un prado de luz absoluta* (*Nightmare Running on a Meadow of Absolute Light*) has won a PEN/Heim Translation Grant of \$3,000. Anthology publication for 2014 includes *Poems: A Concise Anthology*, (Broadview Press, 2014); *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, and *Nuova poesia americana: Chicago & the Great Plains*, (Mondadori, 2014). His volume of procedural poetry, *The Windows* (Argotist, 2013) is available as a free ebook at

www.argotistonline.co.uk Paul's poem "First Language," first published in the Spring 2014 issue of 14 Hills, was selected by the site Poetry Daily as the poem of the day for July 13, 2014. **Dodie Bellamy's** *The Beating of Our Hearts*, her chapbook published by Semiotext(e), was included in this year's Whitney Biennial. She has a new book out from Ugly Duckling Presse, *The TV Sutras*. **Nona Caspers'** short story "Reception," published in the *Kenyon Review Spring 2013* has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. **Michelle Carter** won the Ebell of Los Angeles Playwrights Prize, for which she will receive \$6000 and a staged reading of *20 Friends*, her winning play. Her play *Lunch* was performed in Russian at the Moscow Art Theatre. In the Fall there will be a reading of a new play at Geffen Playhouse in L.A. and she'll be workshopping a musical, *The Lucky One*, at Shotgun Players in Berkeley, who will produce it in September 2015. **Steve Dickison** is winner of *BOMB's* 2014 Poetry Contest, selected by CAConrad. Four poems from *Wear You to the Ball* appear this month in *BOMB 129 Fall 2014*. **Toni Mirosevich** was awarded a 2013 Hedgebrook Alumnae Fellowship, as well as a writers residency at the Helen Ribaloff Whiteley Center in the San Juan Islands; she has new nonfiction and fiction in *North American Review*, *Fourth Genre*, *Michigan Quarterly* and Toni received Notable Mention in *Best American Essays 2013*. **ZZ Packer** is a 2014-15 Radcliffe Institute Fellow, which includes \$75,000, office space at Radcliffe Institute and access to Harvard University libraries. **Katie Crouch's** latest novel, *Abroad*, is out from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. **Andrew Joron** co-edited *The Collected Poems of Philip Lamantia* (University of California Press, 2013) which was celebrated at St. Mark's Poetry Project in New York City, and he has work in the forthcoming Omnidawn inaugural *Best American Experimental Writing*. June 15, 2014, his collaborative project with saxophonist Sheldon Brown, *Blood of the Air*, was staged at SFJazz - a ten-piece band performed the compositions (including Andrew on theremin); *Blood of the Air* will be staged again at Duende in Oakland on October 10, 2014. **Peter Orner's** latest book, *Last Car Over the Sagamore Bridge*, has recently been published in paperback by Little Brown and Company. The book was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice Book, chosen as a Top Ten Books of the Year by John Williams of the *New York Times*, a Best Work of Fiction of 2013 by Sam Sacks of the *Wall Street Journal*, a Best Books of the Year by *San Francisco Chronicle*, and a Top Ten Story Collection of the year by Amazon.com. **Chanan Tigay** received an SFSU ORSP grant that allowed him to conduct summer research in Europe and Israel for his book *Unholy Scriptures*; his interview with Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras is in the *New Yorker Online*. **Frances Phillips**, interviewed Margaret Atwood for City Arts & Lectures, - you can listen to this interview on KQED Radio. And, *Nonprofits for Dummies* is in its fourth edition. Excerpts from **Matthew Davison's** novel-in-progress *Doubting Thomas* is excerpted in *Lumina XII*. **Anne Galjour's** play *Turtles and Alligators* had a successful premiere run at the Bayou Playhouse in Lockport, LA. **Roy Conboy's** latest play, *In Hollow Time*, a blues opera about the latest recession,

premiered on campus Spring 2014. **Peter Sinn Nachtrieb's** new play *The Totalitarians*, commissioned by NNPN, will continue its rolling world premiere at Z Space Theater, November-December. **Barbara Tomash's** new book of poetry *Arboreal* is out from Apogee Press, and she in a number of journals, including *Verse*, *Colorado Review*, *VOLT*, *Witness*, *New American Writing*, *Omniverse*. Tomash has given readings recently, including with the IVY reading series in Paris. Look for interviews and reviews at robmclennan.blogspot.com, www.yourimpossiblevoice.com and forthcoming on www.thevolta.org.

Former Faculty

Miranda Mellis is a 2014 Marin Headlands Center for the Arts Artist in Residence. **Cooley Windsor** received a 2013 San Francisco Foundation Joseph Henry Jackson Award, for the manuscript, *Castleberry Meditations*.

Alumni

Forrest Gander's (MA) new book is *Redstart: An Ecological Poetics* a book of prose and poetry co-authored with John Kinsella, from University of Iowa Press (2012). **Judy Juanita** (MFA) has a novel out, *Virgin Soul* (Viking 2013) **Susan St. Aubin's** (MA) erotic short story collection, *A Love Drive-By* is now available on Amazon.com. and she has a story in *Ageless Erotica* (Seal Press, 2013). **Marianne Goldsmith** (MA) has a piece in the anthology *Times They Were A-Changing: Women Remember the '60s & '70s* (She Writes Press, 2013), as does **Lucille Lang Day** (MA, MFA), who received the 2013 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award for her memoir *Married at Fourteen: A True Story* (Heyday, 2012). **Barbara Rose Brooker** (MA) latest novel is *Should I Sleep in His Dead Wife's Bed?* (Llumina, 2013). **John Goulet's** (MA) short story "Rise Up, Beloved!" is in *The Massachusetts Review 54.2*. **Evelyn Jean Pine's** (MA, MFA) play *First* had a successful premiere run at Stage Werx last fall. **Mimi Lok** (MFA), along with Dave Eggers, received a 2013 Smithsonian American Ingenuity for her work as executive director of *Voice of Witness*, a series of books about troubled areas of the world from Zimbabwe to Haiti to the Chicago Housing Projects. **May-lee Chai** (MFA) was hired as a tenure-track professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. **Kate Moses** (MFA 2013) was hired as tenure-track professor at SUNY Plattsburgh, in their English Department's Writing Arts program. **Darothy Durkac** (BA 2013) won first place in the Abroad Writers Conference for her short-short fiction "What He Did With the Insides" for which she won a week's stay in Lismore Castle in Ireland and full scholarship for a 3-day workshop led by Ethel Rohan and Robert Olen Butler. **Vivien Turner's** (MA 2013) short story *SeaFair* was published in the online erotic literary journal *Piquezine*. **Maria Espinosa** (MA), is a mentor in the Afghan Women's Writing Project, as is **Anita Amirrezvani** (MFA) whose novel *Equal of the Sun* has been reprinted in paperback (Scribner, 2013). Anita also is co-editor of *Tremors: New Fiction by Iranian American Writers* (University of Arkansas Press, 2013) which contains work by **Shideh Etaat** (MFA).

Aja Couchois Duncan (MFA) received a 2013 San Francisco Foundation James D. Phelan Award for his manuscript, *Restless Continent*, as did **Harold Terezon** (MFA), for his manuscript, *Hunting for Izotes*. **F. Douglas Brown** (MA) won the 2013 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, which includes publication, for *Zero to Three*. He extends his thanks to all in the Creative Writing Department and especially Toni, Nona, Dan and Matthew. **Bart Rawlinson** (MFA) won first place in the 2013 William Matthews Poetry Prize, which came with \$1000 and publication in the Asheville Poetry Review. **Marco Lean** (MFA) has a short story published in *Fence*. **Jan-Henry Gray** (BA) won one of 20 nationwide \$50,000 Jack Kent Cooke scholarships. **Rose Booker** (MFA) is teaching in the Filipino Education Center's Galing Bata Bilingual Program at Bessie Carmichael Middle School. **Onnesha Rouchoudhuri** has an article on *Al Jazeera America* online, was a Center for Fiction 2013 NYC Emerging Fiction Writer Fellow, and won full tuition to the 2014 Summer Literary Series in St. Petersburg, Russia. Her work has appeared in *n+1*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Boston Review*, *McSweeney's*, *The Rumpus*, *Opium*, *The Nation*, *The American Prospect*, *Salon*, *Mother Jones*. **Elizabeth Scarboro** (MFA) won the Chautauqua Prize, for her memoir *My Foreign Cities* (Liveright, 2013) - a cash prize and week-long residency at the Chautauqua Institution. **Amira Pierce** (MA) won the Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction for "Anything good Is a Secret," which is a cash prize and publication in the Fall 2014 *Colorado Review*. **Gail Tsukiyama** (MA) has a video interview posted at www.authorsroad.com, in which she discusses not only her creative process, but also her involvement with Waterbridge Outreach, an international literacy and clean water initiative. **Heather Hazuka** (MFA) won the Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellowship, a cash prize and publication, for *True To Life: Cuttings, Mechanics & Modifications*. **SB Stokes** (BA, MFA) first book of poetry was published, *A History of Broken Things* (Punk Hostage Press, 2014). Also out from Punk Hostage Press this year, **Hollie Hardy's** (BA, MFA) poetry collection *How To Take A Bullet and Other Survival Poems*. The first book from Full Court Books, founded by **Matt L. Rohrer** (BA, MA) and **Jacob I. Evans** (BA) is *Recreation League*, an anthology featuring some of our alumni, including Matt himself as well as **Anhvu Buchanan** (MFA) and **MG Martin** (BA). **Anisse Gross** (MFA) has several articles in *New Yorker* online. **Susan Calvillo's** (MFA) first book of poems, *Excerpts From My Grocery List* was published by Beard of Bees, and can be downloaded for free from www.beardofbees.com. **Nate Waggoner** (MFA), **Carolyn Ho** (MA, MFA) and **Graham Gremore** (MFA) made the *SF Weekly* list of "Best Writers Without a Book." **Diane Frank's** (MA) latest novel, *Yoga of the Impossible*, was released May, 2014. **Roxane Beth Johnson's** (MFA) poetry collection *Black Crow Dress* (Alice James Books, 2013) was nominated for a 2014 Northern California Book Award. **Shruti Swamy's** (MFA) short story, "Oakland, Africa," is published on *connu.co*. **Alisa Golden** (MFA) is the founder of **82 Review*, now in its second year. **Richard Martin** (MA) has an editorial, in print and audio file in the online KQED Radio website

audio archive. **Quintan Ana Wikswow's** (MFA) latest book, *The Hope Of Floating Has Carried Us This Far*, is forthcoming from Coffee House in Spring 2015. **Katrin Gibb** (MFA) has a story in *Hobart 15:Hotel Culture*. **Sean Negus** (MFA) has poems on www.dusie.org, issue 15. **Flavia Idà's** (MA) latest novel is *The Iron and The Loom* (Hunt Press, 2103). **Jennifer Skutelsky's** (MFA) memoir of Congolese refugees in South Africa, *Tin Can Shrapnel*, came out November 2013. **Alicia Ostarello's** (MA) documentary *50 Dates/50 States* now has a promo video on youtube.

Students

Aurelia Cortes Peyron (MFA candidate) and **Lauren Mendoza** (MA candidate) both won a Kaufmann Scholarship. **John Haggerty** (MFA candidate) has a great piece on www.salon.com "My personal Fox News nightmare: Inside a month of self-induced torture." **Phillip Barron** (MFA candidate) has poems published in *Blast Furnace*, *Harmonium*, *99 Poems for the 99 Percent* (99:The Press, 2012), and poems and research published in the online journal *Common-Place*. **Shobha Rao** (MFA candidate) won the 2014 Nimrod Katherine Anne Prize for Fiction, cash and publication in *Nimrod*, for "Kavitha and Mustafa." **Juliana Delgado** (MFA candidate) has an article online in *SF Weekly*, "Cuentamelo: An Oral History of Queer Latin Immigrants in San Francisco," and had an reading, performance and panel discussion at Galeria de la Raza this June; Galeria de la Raza also published this collection of oral histories as a book. **Elizabeth Bernstein** (MA candidate) made the *SF Weekly* list of "Best Writers Without a Book." **Emil DeAndreis'** (MFA candidate) story collection *Beyond Folly* (Blue Cubicle Press, 2013) was reviewed on *therumpus.net*. **Dylan Brie Ducey** (MFA candidate) has fiction published on *decompmagazine.com*, in *Pear Noir!*, *The Pinch*, and forthcoming on *whiskeypaper.com*. **Erik Blachford's** (MA candidate) play *Hang On* premiered at Theater Dinamundo, as part of the 2014 San Francisco Fringe Festival. **Narnee Loop** (MFA candidate) has a chapbook forthcoming from Ugly Duckling Presse, working title is *Hair*. **Miah Jeffra** (MA candidate) won a LAMBDA Literary Fellowship 2014, and he'll do his residency at American Jewish University (Skirbal in L.A.) working with Randall Kenan. Miah was hired as an adjunct lecturer at Santa Clara University. **Andrew Murphy** (MFA candidate) has work forthcoming in *Zyzyva*.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and alumni. For more student (and alumni) publications, visit website, creativewriting.sfsu.edu. Please email us if your publication isn't listed, and we'll be sure to include it in the newsletter, and the website.

MILESTONES

Susan Herron Sibbet, MA 1984, passed away last year. With four published poetry collections to her name, among her many accomplishments, Susan received a Fellowship at the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe/Harvard, and worked extensively for California Poets in the Schools.

ADVISING:

All Creative Writing professors, assistant, associate and full professors, are advisors; the list is posted online at our website and at the department office, HUM 380.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Prospective applicants to our **graduate programs, you will receive admission decisions mid to late March.**

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.

Events: Add your voice to the Creative Writing Department by attending events and contributing to the department magazines and contests. Be sure to follow us on facebook and tumblr, and to watch our bulletin boards outside the department office (HUM 380) and by HUM 128 for news of local events, publications, and contests.

Also, check out the Poetry Center Schedule online: www.sfsu.edu/~poetry.

Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends, like us on facebook and follow us on tumblr! Go to our website and click on the “f” or the “t” icons. Both accounts are public, so you don’t have to have an account with either social media site to follow us!

BIG THANK YOU’S to all of you who have been so generous in your giving; without your help, the department would have to do out without the many things that make our lives easier. **We are dependent as ever upon your generosity, 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, post-its and**

Your tax deductible contribution to The Creative Writing Department Fund, literary journals and scholarship accounts (a full list of our account names below) may be made either online at

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~develop/makeagift.htm> or by mail to

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

If mailing, 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.

Our **other donation accounts** are: *14 Hills Literary Journal, *Ann Fields Poetry Award, *Bambi Holmes Award, *Clark-Gross Novel Award, *Creative Writing Scholarship Fund, *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 maybe 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.

All best wishes for a happy and productive Fall 2014.

Barbara Eaton, academic office coordinator
Creative Writing at SFSU

SFSU Calendar Highlights

Fall 2014

First day of classes: Monday, August 25, 2014
Labor Day Holiday: Monday September 1, 2014
Drop classes deadline: Monday, September 8, 2014
Add classes deadline: Monday, September 22, 2014
Veteran’s Day Holiday: Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Fall Break: Monday-Saturday, November 24-29, 2014
Last day of classes: Monday, December 15, 2014
Finals: Sat., Dec. 13; Tues.-Sat. Dec. 16-20, 2014
Year-end/New Year campus closure: Wed. December 24-31, 2014 – Thursday, January 1, 2015.

Intersession 2015

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: Mon., January 19, 2015

Spring 2015

First day of classes: Monday, January 26, 2015
Drop classes deadline: Friday, February 6, 2015
Add classes deadline: Friday, February 20, 2015
Spring Break: Monday-Saturday, March 23-28, 2015
Cesar Chavez Holiday: Tuesday, March 31, 2015
Last day of classes: Friday, May 15, 2015
Finals: Sat., May 16; Mon. - Fri. May 18-22, 2015
Commencement MA, MFA: Friday, May 22, 2015
Commencement BA: Saturday, May 23, 2015.
Memorial Day Holiday: Monday, May 25, 2015