

# INLAND NORTHWEST CENTER FOR WRITERS

## CREATIVE WRITING MFA PROGRAM AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015



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# Get Lit!

## PHOTO GALLERY

photos by  
Jeff Bunch



# MAY EVENT BULLETIN



From our friends at:

## READING/SIGNING

**Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.**

Join authors Stephen Arno and Carl Fiedler for a presentation of their most recent book, *Ponderosa*. Recounting human history among the pines, Arno and Fiedler illustrate the historical changes of the forests and offer advice on restoration efforts.

## READING/Q&A

**Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.**

EWU Professor Russell Kolts and the Venerable Thubten Chodron have joined forces to write the new book *An Open-Hearted Life*. Kolts is a clinical psychologist and professor, and Chodron is the founder of Sravasti Abbey. This book discusses compassionate living based on Buddhist tradition and modern psychology.

From our friends at:



## SPOKANE POETRY SLAM

**Monday, May 25, The Bartlett (228 W. Sprague Ave), 8 p.m.**

\$10 cover charge. Sign-ups start at 7 p.m., close at 7:45. \$50 prize for winner.



## EWU VISITING WRITER'S SERIES PRESENTING A READING, Q&A, AND BOOK SIGNINGS WITH POETS MICHELE GLAZER AND MARY SZYBIST.

**Auntie's Bookstore, Friday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.**



Help send off your favorite VoiceOver hosts, Daniella Burke and David Ratcliff. This will be their last opportunity to thrill observers with tasteful jokes and thoughtful introductions. You don't want to miss it.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22 @ 7 P.M.  
DOWNTOWN ROCKET BAKERY**

# NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Pam Russell, our wonderful program coordinator, has a monthly section in the newsletter to help keep everyone up to date on deadlines and important information. Email Pam at [prussell@ewu.edu](mailto:prussell@ewu.edu).

- Reminder to all upcoming MFA grads, be sure to complete your Terminal Research Approval form by
  - a) getting your Thesis Advisor and second reader to sign off. Begin a conversation with them about dates and times that would work to schedule your defense.
  - b) submit your form to the Grad Office to allow them to coordinate your third reader.
  - c) then contact Pam about assisting you in scheduling a room for your defense.

If you need assistance or have any questions please contact pam at [prussell@ewu.edu](mailto:prussell@ewu.edu) or phone her at 828-1434.

# DEAR SECOND YEAR

## A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

*How's that thesis coming? I'm tempted to ask about your reading list and defense strategies, but I'm sure you're tired of talking, thinking, stressing about it.*

*Instead, I'll ask a question that might be easier (or at least more fun) to answer. What did you gain from the MFA experience that you didn't expect when you got here? I assume your writing has improved in many ways, but what skills/experiences did you gain aside from the obvious? Do you find it easier to steal techniques from other writers and make them your own? Did you "find your voice" as my undergrad professors promised would happen at an MFA? Or maybe you can write for hours on end, into the depths of the night, whereas a year ago you were maybe like myself and could only write for like two hours, max?*

*Tell me your secrets.*

Sincerely,  
Your First Year Friend

Dear First Year Friend

First, don't ask me for another month. You'll know soon enough what this feels like.

Second, something I hoped I would learn the business side of the publishing industry. I learned how selling a fiction manuscript is different from selling a nonfiction or poetry manuscript mostly from listening to the visiting writers and from listening to some of our professors. I think it is useful for writers to know the business of publishing so we know how to act when we get to that stage. I encourage you to ask your professors how to pitch a manuscript or a piece to a magazine or a newspaper. Our faculty have a lot of practical knowledge about how the writing world works. Ask them to tell you. Similarly, I've learned to think about writing as a business and not just as a creative pursuit, which is necessary if you want to earn money doing this.

I've gotten better at recognizing author's techniques to steal but I wouldn't say I know fully how to implement what I learn yet. That, I think, will be a life-long process. I learned, too, how to recognize when something isn't working and what specifically is wrong with a piece. That's one of the better skills I got from workshop and thesis meetings.

If you are a writer pursuing writing, you've already found your voice. This degree is just teaching you how to use it. Most of us got started writing bad poems and derivative stories deep into the hours of the night and if that's your pattern, that probably won't change. But I did learn to work better under pressure and for a deadline at any hour of the day and that will be very useful in the outside world.

Good luck with your second year. It's a tough ride but it's worth it.



# PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS & CHEERS



## YVONNE LEACH POET PUBLISHES THREE POEMS IN UPCOMING LITERARY MAGS

Yvonne Leach, a 1986 poetry grad had a poem accepted for publication in the next issue of Windfall, which is out of Portland, Oregon. She also had two poems accepted for publication in the next issue of Bellingham's Clover: A Lit Rag



## LAURA CITINO GRADUATE TO PUBLISH FLASH NONFICTION

Larua Citino's flash nonfiction piece, "Several Folk Taxonomies" was a Winter Contest finalist at Gigantic Sequens. As such, it will be published in their summer issue.



## JANEE J. BAUGHER GRAD PUBLISHES INTERVIEW IN 'THE WRITERS CHRONICLE'

Poetry graduate Janee J. Baugher published an interview in AWP's monthly publication, "The Writer's Chronicle." The 6,000-word interview of Judith Kitchen covers ekphrasis, nonfiction, time and tense, truth-telling.



## JONATHAN JOHNSON & ELIZABETH DUNHAM POETS PRESENTED PAPERS AT KEATS CONFERENCE IN LONDON

Jonathan Johnson, MFA Professor is presenting a paper, co-authored with professor Christine Valeo, Associate Professor of English, at the John Keats Society Conference in London on May 2nd. The paper discusses the use of Jonathan's play Ode about Keats and Fanny Brawne; to teach Intro to Lit students about Keats' poetry and philosophy of "Soul Making."

First year MFA student, Elizabeth Dunham is also presenting a paper on Keats at the conference. She is the only non-professor or PhD to have a paper accepted. She received funding for her trip from the CALE Dena's office, the Student Learning Commons, and EWU Academic Affairs office.



## DANIELLE BUYNAK CURRENT NONFICTION STUDENT TO BE PUBLISHED IN PACIFIC REVIEW

Danielle Buynak, current INCW nonfiction writer and newsletter-maker, will have her first publication out later this month. Her essay, "Lost Vegas" will be published in the pacificREVIEW: Vivarium edition.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

- **The Cape Rock**  
DEADLINE: Rolling  
The Cape Rock is one of the oldest ongoing journals in the nation: 50 years strong! We publish established and emerging **poets**. Send 3–5 previously unpublished poems, any style, with cover letter and SASE to Susan Swartwout, The Cape Rock, One University Plaza MS 2650, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. [www6.semo.edu/universitypress/TheCapeRock/](http://www6.semo.edu/universitypress/TheCapeRock/)
- **Pine Hill Review**  
DEADLINE: Rolling  
Pine Hills Review, the online literary magazine of The College of Saint Rose's MFA program, seeks submissions of previously unpublished **fiction, nonfiction, poetry**, and visual art. We are interested in quality work, no matter the genre, form, or style. Hybrid and experimental work is encouraged. We consider submissions year-round through Submittable. We ask for first North American serial rights only. Copyright reverts to the author upon publication. We publish work every Wednesday, and the work lives on in our archives page thereafter. If an author's work later appears in a collection or anthology, we ask that you include us in the acknowledgements because

it's the cool thing to do.  
[pinehillsreview.strose.edu](http://pinehillsreview.strose.edu)

- **The MacGuffin**  
Deadline: Rolling  
The MacGuffin is now accepting both **poetry** and prose, **fiction** and **nonfiction**, short and long form (up to 5000 words), for our Spring-Summer 2015 issue! As we've finally made it through the darker, snowier months, send us some of your lighter material. We get a lot of submissions about death and dying, so how about some about life and living? We accept all work via email and the traditional snail mail as well. For full submission guidelines, check us out at [www.schoolcraft.edu/macguffin/](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/macguffin/) or shoot us an email.
- **Fairy Tale Review**  
DEADLINE: May 15  
Fairy Tale Review seeks contemporary tales, realist to fabulist. Submissions are now being accepted for our twelfth annual issue, The Ochre Issue, which will be published in 2016. The Ochre Issue has no particular theme—simply send your best fairy-tale work along the spectrum of mainstream to experimental, fabulist to realist. For **fiction** or **nonfiction**, send up to 8,000 words or three flash pieces less than 1,000 words each, and for **poetry**, send up to 5 poems totaling no more than 10 pages. Visit

[fairytalereview.submittable.com/submit](http://fairytalereview.submittable.com/submit) for more information—we will close for submissions in early summer.

- **OFF THE COAST**  
DEADLINE: June 15  
OFF THE COAST—now in its 20th year! Seeks poetry, any subject/style & photography/artwork. Send 1–3 **poems**, previously unpublished, via Submittable: <https://offthecoast.submittable.com/submit>. Pays contributor copy, half off additional copies. Subscriptions \$35. For guidelines and examples from the magazine, visit our website: [www.off-the-coast.com](http://www.off-the-coast.com).

## COMPETITIONS

- **Connecticut Review Poetry Award**  
DEADLINE: May 31  
Submit up to 3 unpublished **poems**, 80-line limit each. Two copies each, 1 only with contact info. Prizes of \$400, \$100, and \$50. Winning poems to appear in Connecticut River Review; \$15 check made out to CPS. Connecticut Poetry Award, CPS, P.O. Box 270554, W. Hartford, CT 06127. See <http://ctpoeetry.net>.

## COMPETITIONS (CONTINUED)

- **Baltimore Review Summer Issue Contest**

DEADLINE: May 31

Theme: Crime.

From infractions to felonies.

Prizes are \$500, \$200, and \$100. Entry fee is \$10. All

contest entries, regardless of genre, should be submitted

through the Contest link in Submittable. Three winners

will be selected from among all entries. 3,000-word limit

for **fiction** and **creative nonfiction** (5,000-word limit

for non-contest, non-theme

submissions). One to three **poems** in an entry. All entries considered for publication. Final judge: Sujata Massey. See guidelines at [baltimorereview.org](http://baltimorereview.org).

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Spiro Arts at Silver Star**

DEADLINE: Rolling

Spiro Arts offers residencies

from mid-April through

mid-May and mid-June

through mid-July to **poets,**

**fiction** writers, and **creative**

**nonfiction** writers at the

Silver Star development

community in Park City, Utah.

Each resident is provided with lodging and a \$600 stipend, and is required to participate in a community outreach activity.

Submit two copies of 6 to 10 poems, two short stories, or the first chapter or 20 pages

of a book of fiction or creative nonfiction, a letter of intent, a

letter of recommendation, and a resumé with a \$30 application

fee. Visit the website for an application and complete

guidelines: : [www.spiroarts.org/artist-residencies](http://www.spiroarts.org/artist-residencies) E-mail: [info@spiroarts.org](mailto:info@spiroarts.org)

- Spiro Arts at Silver Star, AIR Application, P.O. Box 682625, Park City, UT 84068. (435) 649-6258.



## GRATUITOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PUSH

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