

MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2017.....



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SPRING IS HERE!!

THE MUST ATTEND EVENTS OF THE SEASON

Eastern Washington University
PRESENTS

GET LIT!

FESTIVAL

APRIL 17-23, 2017

Celebrate your love of literature at the Get Lit! Festival April 17-23. There's something for everyone — poetry and book readings, workshops, panels and more!

The Get Lit! Festival began in 1998 as a one-day marathon of literary readings sponsored by Eastern Washington University Press and EWU's Department of Creative Writing. Then The Spokesman-Review lovingly called it "the little literary festival that could," and they were right. By 2004, the audience had swelled to 10,000 people from Spokane and the surrounding region. More recently, The Spokesman-Review referred to the festival as the literary equivalent to Spokane's nationally recognized sporting events, Hoopfest and Bloomsday.

JOHN RYBICKI

READING DURING THE 2017 GET LIT!



John Rybicki was born and raised in Detroit. He is the author of two previous poetry collections, *We Bed Down into Water* and *Traveling at High Speeds* as well as the short *Yellow Haired Girl with Spider*. His third book of poems, *When All the World Is Old*, was released by Lookout in April 2012. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ecotone*, *FailBetter*, and *Bomb*, among many others.



DAN MATTHEWSON FICTION PUBLISHED

Congratulations, Dan on the upcoming publication of both your stories “Soaked” and “Pinata Monsters” in *Fixional*.



CODY SMITH ACCEPTED TO ANOTHER PHD PROGRAM

Congratulations, Cody on your acceptances to the creative writing PhD programs at the University of Mississippi and Florida State University. Also, congrats on the upcoming publication of your chapbook with Yellow Flag Press.



SUMMER CONFERENCE PORT TOWNSEND & SQUAW VALLEY

Congratulations Chris Maccini and Rebecca Gonshak for receiving scholarships to attend the Port Townsend Writers' Conference this summer. Also, congratulations to Matt Greene and Justin Eisenstadt for receiving scholarships to attend the Squaw Valley Community of Writers this summer.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

All,

Spring quarter is here, and I have no idea where the time has gone. After this quarter my first year in the program will be over. These first two quarters have brought me stress, adventures, and friends. I finally feel like I have found my place here in Spokane among my cohort and all the other interesting people that inhabit this place. Back home in Montana I always felt like I needed more in my life. Spokane has brought to me what I felt but didn't know I needed for so many years before moving here. I have been to Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Madrid, and London. In these places I was in awe but never at home.

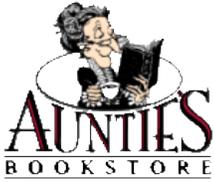
With that reflection in mind, I plan to reconnect this quarter with my classmates. Over the winter I have fallen away from many of the people that welcomed me in the beginning. A combination of being busy beyond my imagination and the bleakness of winter has caused this distance and solitude. Now that the drifts are thawing and the sun has broken through the clouds, I think it is time to come out of hibernation and rejoin the wider world. I want to experience new adventures just like I did in the beginning. Those types of adventures are what fuel my writing.

This quarter I think we should all do something fun among all the school related work we are all going to be burdened with. As writers we are constantly pulling from our experiences and it is never a bad idea to refill our inspiration and creative juices.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Nichter".

Cody Nichter



Friday, April 7 -

6:30p.m.

Reading by Robert Wrigley

Saturday, April 8 - 7

p.m.

Unconventional Beauties: A reading with Brie Spangler, Whitney Gardner, and Kris Dinnison

Wednesday, April 12 - 7

p.m.

Reading with Frank Zafiro

Thursday, April 13 - 6

p.m.

Reading/mini workshop with Sara Conover

Saturday, April 15- 2

p.m.

Reading/signing with Jay Chandrasekhar

Tuesday, April 18 through Sunday, April 27.

Get Lit! Various readings, workshops, and discussion panels. Find more on getlitfestival.org

DEAR SECOND YEAR

A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

I am excited and worried for the summer. On one hand I am ready to have an extended break, but on the other hand I know there are things I should be working on. What are your suggestions for how the summer should be spent in preparation for second year?

- First Year

Dear First Year,

I know how much you're looking forward to a few months of no classes and much needed relaxation. Trust me, summer break is key to not burning out and to re-fueling those creative juices after a school year of adjusting to a grad. program, hard work, and tons of writing and reading. And I'm also sure you're feeling your thesis year looming over your shoulders and whispering nightmares into your ears. Try not to worry, though I know that feels impossible for many of us. Though, summer fun helps us to get back to a healthier mental and physical state (both very important when going into your second year of the MFA), it's also a great opportunity to start working on your thesis reading list (and come on...who doesn't want to read at the beach or on a plane). Besides getting some reading out of the way, summer is also the perfect time to write with no worry of showing it to anyone right away (unless you want to email some classmates or your mom). In other words, you can write for yourself first. If you can, set up a writing routine as in a time and place to write every day or every other day. Free-write, work on some idea you've been thinking over, or edit older pieces. Remember, having no classes or super tight deadlines means you have more time to spend on individual pieces or even on just brainstorming. Though, I think writing as much as you can even if you don't edit for a while or even if you're just jotting down ideas or basic research can be really helpful. Also, by the time summer rolls around you'll have your thesis advisor and he or she will give you some directions... like a number of pages to have written or a list of books to have read by the start of fall quarter.

I guess my overall suggestions are to get some work done, but at a pace that best works for you and your writing style. Even if what you write over the summer doesn't make it into your final thesis manuscript, it's at least writing practice. I also suggest and stress taking care of yourself. First year has its ups and downs, try to recuperate over the summer so you're at a healthy state when thesis year rolls around...you'll thank yourself later. Trust me, I wish I had done these last summer. And if something comes up this summer and your organized plans/to-do lists can't be done, try not to worry too much. You're not doomed and you still have time to create a killer thesis.

Yours truly,

A Second Year



CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

- **Westview**
Deadline: April 28. Attention writers! Westview is currently accepting short fiction submissions. We are the creative writing journal published by the Language and Literature Department at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. We are looking for short fiction submissions with a maximum length of 5,000 words. Any and all themes are accepted and encouraged. Our submission process is double-blind, so please exclude any identifying information in the submission documents themselves. You can submit your work via dc.swosu.edu/westview/. Good luck!
- **Raleigh Review**
Deadline: April 30. Raleigh Review is now accepting poetry, flash fiction, and short fiction submissions for the Fall 2017 issue. Raleigh Review is a biannual print publication with beautiful cover art, high-quality paper, full-color interior art, and stunning writing. We are looking for work that is emotionally and intellectually complex. All submissions are online; there is a small fee to submit. We pay \$10 per piece plus one free contributor's copy and a discount on additional copies. See full guidelines at www.raleighreview.org, and browse the archives while you're

there!

- **Gold Man Review**
Deadline: May 1.
Gold Man Review is currently accepting submissions for our Issue 7, which will be published November 01. We accept submissions of fiction and nonfiction up to 5,000 words and up to three poems by a single submitter. We love work that pushes boundaries and tend to gravitate toward those submissions. We regularly submit our contributor's work to the Pushcart Prize, the O.Henry Prize Stories, and Best American Anthologies. Since we're a West Coast journal, we only accept submissions from writers from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii. We look forward to reading your work. www.goldmanpublishing.com

COMPETITIONS

- **Conium Review**
Deadline: May 1.
Conium Review 2017 Innovative Short Fiction Contest. Judged by Stephen Graham Jones, author of more than 20 books, most recently *Mongrels*. Winner receives \$500, publication in *The Conium Review*, contributor copies, and a copy of the judge's latest book. Entry fee: \$15. More details at <http://coniumreview.com/contests>.
- **Sonora Review**
Deadline: May 1.
Three prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in *Sonora Review* are given annually for a poem or group of poems, a short story, and an essay. Anselm Berrigan will judge in poetry, Brian Evenson will judge in fiction, and Irina Dumitrescu will judge in nonfiction. Submit four to eight pages of poetry, a short story of up to 6,000 words, or an essay of up to 5,000 words with a \$15 entry fee by May 1. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines: <http://www.sonorareview.com>. Sonora Review, Annual Contests, University of Arizona, English Department, 1423 East University Boulevard, Room 445, Modern Languages Building, Tucson, AZ 85721.
- **The Blue Lynx Prize**
Deadline: May 15.
The Blue Lynx Prize, \$2,000 plus publication, is awarded for an unpublished, full-length volume of poems. Submit manuscripts and \$28 reading fee to P.O. Box 940, Spokane, WA 99210 or lynxhousepress.submittable.com. The 2016 winner was Ralph Burns for *But Not Yet*. Judges have included Yusef Komunyakaa, Melissa Kwasny, and Robert Wrigley. Deadline: May 15. Details: www.lynxhousepress.org.

OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

- **Ploughshares**

Deadline: May 15.

Ploughshares Emerging Writer Contest. Three prizes of \$2,000 each and publication in Ploughshares are given annually for a poem or group of poems, a short story, and an essay. Writers who have not published or self-published a book or chapbook are eligible. Submit three to five pages of poetry or up to 6,000 words of fiction or nonfiction with a \$24 entry fee (there is no entry fee for current subscribers), which includes a subscription to Ploughshares. Visit the website for complete guidelines: <http://www.pshares.org>. Ploughshares, Emerging Writer's Contest, Emerson College, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 824-3757. Ellen Duffer, Managing Editor.

- **Raymond Carver Short Story Contest**

Deadline: May 15.

Raymond Carver Short Story Contest. A prize of \$1,500 and publication in Carve Magazine is given annually for a short story. Submit a story of up to 10,000 words with a \$15 entry fee (\$17 for electronic submissions). Visit the website for complete guidelines: <http://www.carvezine.com/raymond-carver-contest>. Carve Magazine, Raymond Carver Short Story Contest, P.O. Box 701510, Dallas, TX 75370. Anna Zumbahlen, Managing Editor.

- **Connecticut Poetry Award**

Deadline: May 31.

Connecticut Poetry Award of the Connecticut Poetry Society (CPS). Fee \$15 for up to 3 unpublished poems; any form, 80- line limit. Submit via connecticutriverreview.submittable.com. Opens April 1, deadline May 31. Prizes: first: \$400; second: \$100; third: \$50. Winning poems published in Connecticut River Review and posted on CPS website. See guidelines on Submittable and CPS website: ctpoeetry.net.

application form and complete guidelines. Anne LaBastille Memorial Writer Residency, Adirondack Center for Writing, P.O. Box 956, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. (518) 354-1261. adirondackcenterforwriting.org E-mail address: info@adirondackcenterforwriting.org Writing, P.O. Box 956, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. (518) 354-1261.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Anne LaBastille Memorial Writer Residency**

Application Deadline: May 20. Website: www.adirondackcenterforwriting.org

E-mail address: info@adirondackcenterforwriting.org Anne LaBastille Memorial Writer Residency. The Adirondack Center for Writers offers six two-week residencies from October 8 to October 24 to poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers at a lodge on Twitchell Lake in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. Residents are provided with a private room, bathroom, workspace, and meals. Using the online submission system, applicants submit up to 10 poems or ten pages of prose with a \$25 application fee between April 15 and May 20. Visit the website for the required

WRITING PROMPT

