



## SUMMER 2018 WHAT'S INSIDE

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## LESLEY NNEKA ARIMAH RETURNS TO MANKATO

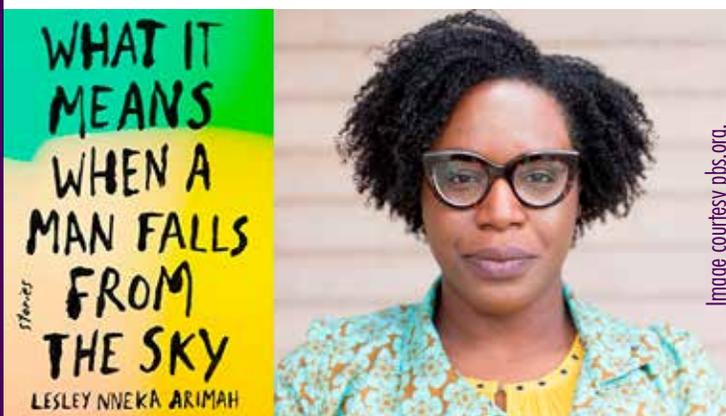


Image courtesy pbs.org.

A highlight of this year's Good Thunder Reading Series was the return of Lesley Nneka Arimah, a graduate of our Creative Writing MFA program, as a visiting writer. Arimah's debut short story collection, *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*, earned strong reviews and major awards, including the 2017 Kirkus Prize.

Thanks to the Good Thunder Reading Series (led by Professor Diana Joseph), Arimah returned to Mankato in March to discuss the craft of fiction with current creative writing students. Her visit culminated in a public reading and book-signing in the CSU, where she read from her debut before taking questions from the audience. Asked about her growth as a writer, Arimah returned again and again to the importance of reading deeply and widely.

Her time here inspired the creative writers at our university, and it also served as a celebration for the Mankato community at large. We're proud of her success, and we look forward to her future work.

Director Diana Joseph is happy to announce Good Thunder's 2018-19 line-up. Next year's program is organized around the theme of Crossing Borders, whether thematically or aesthetically. All six visiting writers will provide a workshop, a craft talk, a reading, and an event in the community.

### THE GOOD THUNDER 2018-2019 PROGRAM

September 12-13, 2018

Ladan Osman, poet and creative nonfiction writer

October 10-11, 2018

Nick White, novelist and short story writer

November 7-8, 2018

Danez Smith, poet

February 6-7, 2019

Sequoia Nagamatsu, short story writer and Robert C. Wright Visiting Writer

Jordan Deveraux, poet and Robert C. Wright award winner

March 12-15, 2019

Layli Long Soldier, poet and Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer

April 6-7, 2019

Lidia Yuknavitch, novelist, creative nonfiction writer, and Nadine B. Andreas Visiting Writer

Lorna Pecard, poet and Nadine B. Andreas Graduate Assistant

### MFA ALUMNI FINALISTS IN BOOK AWARDS COMPETITION

Four MFA alumni were finalists in the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Minnesota Book Awards competition: Lesley Nneka Arimah in the Novel and Short Story categories for *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*; Sara Biren in Young Adult Literature for *The Last Thing You Said*; Rebecca Fjelland Davis in Young Adult Literature for *Slider's Son*; and Nicole Helget in Middle Grade Literature for *The End of the Wild*. Arimah and Helget received Minnesota Book Awards in their respective categories.

The Minnesota Book Awards foster a statewide literary arts community and connect readers and writers throughout Minnesota. The awards are supported by the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

**Dawn M. Armfield** is the Associate Editor on an edited collection, *The Wiley Handbook of Educational Policy* with editors Rosemary Papa and Shadow W.J. Armfield. Within that collection, she co-wrote "Modeling the Virtuous: Toward More Ethical Educational Technology Policies" with Shadow W.J. Armfield.

**Edward Ávila** partook in a panel presentation at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference at Utrecht University, Netherlands. His paper, "Necropower, Reification, and the Subjective Logics of Neoliberalism in Latinx Literature and Film," examines two important contemporary Latina/o cultural texts that draw critical attention to the complex relationship between contemporary neoliberal governmentality and the emerging necropolitical order of power in the Mexico and U.S. borderlands: Alicia Gaspar de Alba's detective novel *Desert Blood: The Juarez Murders* (2005), and Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre's documentary film *Maquilapolis: City of Factories* (2006).

**Candace Black** has a poem anthologized in the current Poetry City, USA. She also had two poems published in December, two poems in *Perfume River Poetry Review*, and two poems in *Hubbub*.

**Heather Camp** served the first year of a three-year term as the Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator. Prior to accepting the role, she served as the Interim WAC Coordinator for one year. Camp presented research on teaching assistant preparation and post-graduation work experience with English department alumni Lindsay Mason and Ellen Zamarripa at the College Composition and Communication Conference in Kansas City, MO. She also presented on Honors Education and Dual Enrollment/AP Credit with Honors Director Anne Dahlman and Associate Director Ginny Walters at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, GA.

**Kirsti Cole** published *Surviving Sexism in Academia: Strategies for Feminist Leadership* (Routledge) with her co-editor Holly Hassel. She published "Remodeling Shared Governance: Feminist Decision Making and Resistance in Academic Neoliberalism" with Eileen Schell and Holly Hassel in that collection. She has also published a chapter, "Amy Schumer: Comedy's Blond Feminist Badass and The Limitations of White Feminism" in *Women, Feminism, and Pop Politics: From "Bitch" to "Badass" and Beyond*, edited by Karrin Vasby Anderson. Her articles for this year include "Hush...The Dangers of Silence in the Academic Library" which was published in *In the Library with a Lead Pipe*, and "The Grotesque Protest in Social Media as Embodied, Political Rhetoric" which was published in the *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. She presented at the Association of Teachers of Technical Communication Conference in Kansas City, KS and Feminisms and Rhetorics in Dayton, OH.

**Sarah Henderson Lee** was invited to Bahrain through the U.S. Department of State's English Language Specialist Program. During her two weeks stay in Fall 2017, she led twelve professional development workshops on second language writing for over 250 Bahraini teachers of English. Henderson Lee also published an article titled "Reflective Inquiry in TESOL: Teacher-Scholars Engaging in Critical Friendship" in *The European Journal of Applied Linguistics and TEFL* and an encyclopedia entry for "heritage language" in the *TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*. She presented on a panel titled "Addressing Conflict: Ethics Activism at the Intersections of Feminist Scholarship and Writing Pedagogy" at Feminisms and Rhetorics in Dayton, OH and on a panel titled "L2 Writing Teacher Preparation and Development in International Contexts" at TESOL International in Chicago, IL.

**Geoff Herbach** published a YA novel, *Hooper*, (Katherine Tegen, an imprint of HarperCollins HarperCollins).

**Paolo Infante** co-published an article, "Mediated Development: A Vygotskian Approach to Transforming Second Language Learner Abilities," in *TESOL Quarterly*. He also published a book chapter entitled "Mediated Development: Promoting Learner Internalization of L2 Concepts through Cognitive-Process Focused Activities" that will appear in *The Routledge Handbook of Sociocultural Theory and Second Language Development* this summer.

**Diana Joseph** was selected by the Greater Mankato Diversity Council as its 2018 Pathfinder Award recipient in recognition of Good Thunder Present's community outreach work.

**Chris McCormick** joined us as a new professor in Creative Writing; his debut short story collection, *Desert Boys*, was reissued in paperback this year. He also published an op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times* on the legacy of confederate iconography in California.

**Sara Parks** joined us as a new professor in Technical Communication.

**Glen Poupore** published "A Complex Systems Investigation of Group Work Dynamics in L2 Interactive Tasks" in *Modern Language Journal*.

**Melissa Purdue** continues to serve as editor-in-chief of the journal *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*. She was also awarded a Teaching Scholar Fellowship for summer 2018.

**Richard Robbins** published *Body Turn to Rain: New and Selected Poems* (U. of Washington Press) and has been doing readings around the country and in the United Kingdom since summer.

**Steve Rybin** received a Faculty Research Grant to support travel and research relating to his current book project, a study of the film performances of Geraldine Chaplin. This academic year also saw the publication of his new book, *Gestures of Love*:

(cont. on page 7)

## STUDENT NEWS

**Leah Alsaker** had flash nonfiction published recently on Pulse's *More Voices* and has a poem accepted for a future issue of *Rock and Sling*. Four poems are forthcoming on Oakwood.

**Kit Arbuckle's** paper has been accepted for the South-Central Renaissance Conference to be held in Atlanta.

**Tyler Barton's** story, "The Orbit of Us," was selected as the winner of the Chicago Review of Books 2017 Fall Fiction Prize, judged by Kathleen Rooney, and was published in their literary magazine, *Arcturus*. He has stories forthcoming in the *Iowa Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Bat City Review*, and *Hobart*. Along with Andrew Nye, he'll be teaching a one-day creative writing workshop for teens at the Loft in April. He has short stories appearing in Issue 9.1 of *Gigantic Sequins*, the Winter 2017 issue of *Hypertrophic Literary*, the first print-issue of *Split Lip Magazine*, and the *Fanzine*. His story, "K," was nominated for a Best of the Net award by *Waxwing*.

**Emily Buehler's** poem, "From the Back Patio of a New Orleans Shotgun Tenement," was selected for the *Crossings at Carnegie 2018 Poet-Artist Collaboration Chapbook*. Her poem "Quiet Prophet" and an essay about the creative process for this poem were published in *Razor Literary Magazine*. Also, her poem "I was left for dead" was first runner-up in Arkana's Inaugural Writing Contest; poetry was judged by Oliver de la Paz.

**Gustavo Cruz's** "Visiting My Mother While My Father Dies, 1996" and "After the Divorce: Living with Grandmother" were featured in *The Flat Water Stirs: An Anthology of Emerging Nebraska Poets*.

**Jordan Deveraux** is the recipient of the 2018-2019 Robert C. Wright award.

**James Figy's** stories "End over End" and "For the People in the Back" are forthcoming from *Cheap Pop* and *Hobart*, respectively. He will teach at the Loft Literary Center in the summer.

**Tina Gross** has a poem in *Poetry City, USA*, and two others in *Third Point Press*.

**Alexis Kruckeberg** has published two poems recently, in *Qu Literary Magazine* and *CALYX: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women*.

**Michael Kubista** had an essay published in *storySouth*.

**Natalie Martell** and **Ashley Richardson** had their proposal accepted at The Loft for a summer fiction writing workshop, titled "Creating Complex Villains: Getting The Bad Guy Right," for 13-17 year olds.

**Nasiba Norova** presented "World Englishes and Oral Communication: Perceptions of Multilingual Speakers" in the Master's Student Forum at TESOL International.

**Andrew Nye** has a poem forthcoming in *Clockwise Cat* and four poems forthcoming in *Five:2:One Magazine's #slideshow*. He also had two proposals accepted to teach two one-day classes at The Loft this spring. *ANON Magazine* published his poem/found object/painting collage "Plenty of Fish" in print issue #8.

**Lorna Pecard** is the recipient of the 2018-19 Nadine B. Andreas Graduate Assistantship.

**Lal Rana** presented "Effects of Using Prior L1 Genre Knowledge in L2 Writing" in the Master's Student Forum at TESOL International.

**Abigail Saffert**, MA in Literature, has been accepted into Marquette's Ph.D. program.

**Tessa Torgeson's** creative nonfiction essay "Reverse Bartender and Wilted Wings," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize from bioStories magazine. She also had creative nonfiction pieces published in *Los Lit UK* and forthcoming in *Doll Hospital Literary Journal*.

**Michael Torres'** poem, "From My Classroom Window at the Prison, Before Students Arrive," was accepted for publication by *Ploughshares*, and his essay "As If To Say" was nominated for a Pushcart prize.

**Elizabeth Trueblood's** "Killing Games" is going to be published in *Blackberry Winter's* spring 2018 issue.

**Yen Vo** gave a research presentation at the Language Assessment Research Conference at Iowa State University. The title of her presentation was 'Effects of Independent and Integrated Speaking Tasks on Learners' Interactional Performance.'

Work by four students from Abigail Bakke's course, ENG 472: Writing in the Health Professions, was published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Pulse*, the magazine of the College of Allied Health & Nursing.



Image courtesy of the University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

## SIGMA TAU DELTA SUPPORTS SOCIAL JUSTICE POETRY SLAM

The Chi Iota chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, supported a spoken word workshop and performance hosted by the Kessel Peace Institute on February 21 at the CSU. The event featured two-time National Poetry Slam Champion, activist, and educator Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre. A workshop, "TOOLS & TACTICS for Incorporating the Arts into Social Justice Activism," was followed by the performance, "PAGE/STAGE/ENGAGE: Intersections of Art and Activism." The workshop and performance were part of "WORDS OF ACTION," a series of events sponsored by the Social Justice Lecture Series.

Minnesota State Mankato's Sigma Tau Delta chapter has promoted a mastery of written expression, encouraged serious reading, and fostered a spirit of good fellowship among students of English for over 50 years.

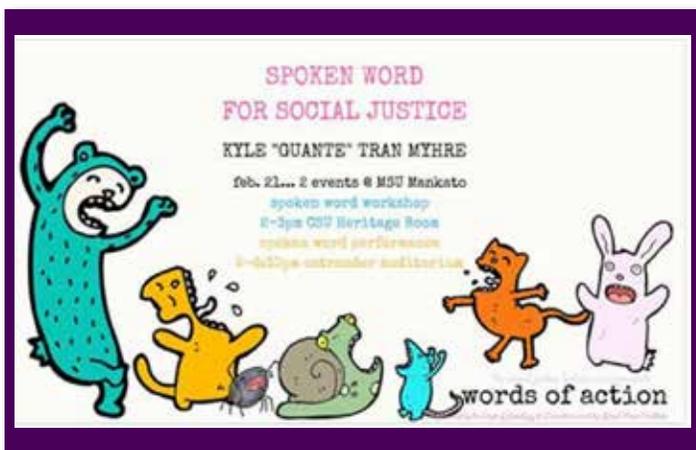


Image Courtesy of Sigma Tau Delta, Chi Iota chapter

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSION THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING

Several major outreach initiatives engaged and enriched our wider community this year. Along with department faculty and through the Good Thunder Reading Series, graduate students Jessica Guess and Renée Mitchell-Matsuyama led writing workshops with Somali mothers and children at the Mankato Islamic Center. The five-week workshop culminated in a public reading by the authors, whose poems, stories, and illustrations were collected in chapbooks produced by the workshop leaders.

Elsewhere in the community, graduate students Tyler Barton, Casey Cromwell, and Linnea Guerin led senior writing workshops at Pathstone Living. The Pathstone writers workshop gave its fourth public reading in April this year, where a third chapbook by Pathstone Writers was released.

Graduate students Lorna Pecard, Andrew Nye, and Renée Mitchell-Matsuyama also led poetry workshops for Aktion Club, a special needs performance and arts group. Joining the poets and artists on stage in the Earley Center for Performing Arts was Juan Felipe Herrera, the 21st Poet Laureate of the United States, whose visit was made possible by the Good Thunder Reading Series. The event was such a success that the community outreach program is bringing Juan Felipe Herrera back next year. He has a role in Aktion Club Theatre's original play *Circus Metamorphosis*. The story's themes include inclusion, civil rights and the disability community, celebrating diversity, and the power of the arts.

## STUDENT FILM SHOWCASE

This year's Spring Film Showcase screened short films made by students on Wednesday, April 25, in Ostrander Auditorium in the Centennial Student Union. The event consisted of an evening of short films envisioned, developed, and executed by undergraduates at Minnesota State University Mankato over the course of Fall semester 2017 and Spring semester 2018, in various Film Production courses, as well as in the Film Production Club. In addition to an Audience Prize for "Best Film" at the showcase, a Jury Prize was also awarded. The jury was comprised of a group of faculty members from the Department of English, the Film and Media Studies Program, and the local filmmaking community. The Audience Award for Best Film went to Kyle Quast for *Flicker*, and the Jury Award for Best Film went to two films: Kyle Quast for *Flicker* and the Film Production Club for *A Crosswalk Named Desire*.

## FILM STUDENTS SCREEN A DOCUMENTARY ON VIETNAM WAR PROTESTS IN MANKATO

Film production students in the Department of English and the Film and Media Studies Program, in conjunction with Minnesota State Mankato's Library Services, finished work on a documentary film in Fall 2018. The subject of the documentary is the protest against the Vietnam War that took place in Mankato on May 9 and May 10 in the spring of 1972. Student protests against the war occupied several areas of the campus, and resulted in the blockage and temporary closure of Highway 169 leading into and out of the city. The title of the documentary is *Two Weeks in May*.

The premiere of the film took place on November 1, 2017, in the ballroom at the Centennial Student Union. Production on the film was made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature.

If any Department of English alumni are interested in purchasing a copy of the film on DVD, please contact Monika Antonelli in Library Services ([monika.antonelli@mnsu.edu](mailto:monika.antonelli@mnsu.edu)).



Image courtesy of the University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato.



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR by Matthew Sewell

Every year I'm impressed by the high level of activity in our department, and it's difficult to choose highlights. Still, a few that stick out from 2017-18:

- The Good Thunder Reading Series continues to develop its community outreach in extraordinary ways. This year we organized three public readings, published three chapbooks (two more will be published over the summer), and offered workshops with Ecumen Pathstone Living, Aktion Club Theatre, the REACH Drop-In Center, Twin Rivers Arts Council, Washington Elementary, and the Mankato Islamic Center. (See [gt.mnsu.edu](http://gt.mnsu.edu) for information about these and other activities.)
- As always, our faculty put a lot of energy into revising and improving our curriculum. Film and Media Studies, now in its third year as a major, still attracts students at a considerable pace. Two other programs — MA Literature and MA English Education — are now available fully online. Technical Communication has taken steps to form an advisory board to help keep current with industry needs. And, in collaboration with several other departments, we joined to launch a new minor in Human-Animal Studies.
- A year ago we offered a few \$2000 fellowships to support graduate students engaged in creative or research projects during the summer. Four students presented their Summer 2017 projects this year, and four new recipients will be working on their projects over Summer 2018.

I'm happy to report that we had another successful hiring season — but first I'd like to highlight a few details about our departing colleagues:

**John Banschbach** earned a B.A. (1969), M.A. (1975), and Ph.D. (1979) in English from Indiana University-Bloomington. John joined us in 1988 after a career teaching high school English; at the college level, he taught children's and young adult literature, English Education, and British literature. Over the last 30 years he served in every departmental role we could offer, and possibly a few we invented just so that we could keep exploiting him: Composition Director, Graduate Director, Concurrent Enrollment Advisor, stints as chair of Assessment, Personnel, Scheduling, and of course chair of the department from 2005-13. John's expertise was also recognized by other areas — he advised the College of Education in a number of capacities, and he worked as an advisory board member, external reviewer of programs at other schools, and as a grant reviewer. He spent a number of years co-editing the *Minnesota English Journal*, and he published work in *Language and Style*, *Milton Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Teaching Writing*, among other venues. Most memorably, John is a remarkably thoughtful teacher, and also remarkably thoughtful about teaching. Generations of students and colleagues alike benefited from John's model of reflective and considerate professionalism and generous spirit of service.

**Donna Casella** earned a B.A. in English from Fordham University (1975), an M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1981) in English from Michigan State University, and an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language from Minnesota State Mankato (1995). Donna began with us in 1984; she taught all manner of American literature, popular culture, and film, and she published work in the *Journal of American Culture*, *Twentieth Century Crime and Mystery Writers*, the CCCC newsletter, the *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, *Framework*, *Postscript*, and others. She was a Fulbright lecturer

in Turkey, and she taught American Studies in Japan. She served as the Department's Graduate Director and was the founding co-director of our Film and Media Studies major. Among the venues for her presentations are the annual *International Women in Silent Screen Conference*, the *National Popular Culture Conference*, and the *Midwest MLA*. In addition, she has been a research consultant for the MN State Historical Society, a regular judge for the *Speechless Film Festival*, a conference organizer, and a contributor to Columbia University's *Women Film Pioneers Project*. As those who know her — which is just about everybody — can attest, Donna is a singular presence who has made long-lasting contributions to our institution; she's certainly earned retirement, though we will be a much different department without her.

**Lindsay Mason** earned a B.S. in English and Speech Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Superior (2005), and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the Minnesota State Mankato (2014). Lindsay joined us in 2014 in a fixed term role; she's leaving us for a tenure track position at Lake Superior College in Duluth. In addition to teaching composition and serving as our interim Composition Director, Lindsay served the university in an extraordinary number of ways, including leading a team within the university's Reimagining the First Year initiative and chairing the President's Commission on the Status of Women. As a teacher, she devoted considerable energy to developing new courses to serve our students, including a Quality Matters certified online Composition class and a creative writing class taught in a correctional facility in Waseca. She has presented at CCCC and the NCTE conference, and she has published essays, poems, and stories in a number of venues. We're sorry to see her go, but happy for her about the new opportunity; we will miss her strong voice when it comes to demanding more and better of the institution on behalf of our students.

To all three of our colleagues — on behalf of our students, staff, and faculty: thank you.

I'll mention, briefly, a few things about the new instructors who will be joining us in Fall 2018.

**Matt Connolly** (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018): Matt's research focuses on the intersections between LGBTQ filmmakers/audiences and the industrial structures of American cinema. His dissertation analyzes how director John Waters employed the extra-cinematic elements surrounding his films — marketing, publicity, and exhibition — to construct his singular directorial brand. Matt's research has been published in *Cinema Journal* and *Spectator*.

**Kristie Smith** (Ph.D., Mercer University, 2016): Kristie's professional background includes seventeen years in K-12 public education as a middle and high school English/Language Arts teacher and as a middle and high school Literacy Instructional Specialist for Gwinnett County Public Schools of Georgia. Additionally, Kristie taught as an adjunct for Mercer University's Atlanta Tift College of Education, where she worked with pre-service and early service middle grades and secondary teachers, primarily teaching courses with literacy and language arts content. Kristie also has several years of adjunct experience teaching a variety of English department courses at two and four year colleges in and around the Atlanta area.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Benjamin Allocco's** debut novel, *Deathform*, was released in October by Severed Press.

**Stacey Amo** has earned her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and has been hired as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Wisconsin, Superior starting fall 2017.

**Lesley Nneka Arimah's** debut collection of short stories, *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*, was published in April 2017 by Riverhead Books. The title story was shortlisted for the Caine Prize in African Writing.

**Sara Biren's** YA novel, *The Last Thing You Said*, was published by Amulet Books in April 2017 and has received a starred review from *Kirkus*.

**Eric Blix** has recently published stories in *The Pinch*, *Split Lip Magazine*, and *Four Way Review*. His short story collection, *Physically Alarming Men*, will be published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press.

**Jenny Yang Cropp's** poem "Usage Error: Translator" is forthcoming in the special APA issue of *Poemeleon*.

**Jason Darcy** was a finalist in the Bahamas International Film Festival's 2016 screenplay competition.

**Michael Dusek** teaches composition at the University of Wisconsin, Stout and tutors in the Writing Center at Walden University.

**Jennifer Fandel** teaches poetry writing to incarcerated women at a maximum security prison north of St. Louis, MO, through the nonprofit Prison Performing Arts.

**Amy Fladeboe** was awarded a \$10,000 Minnesota State Arts Board grant and an \$8000 Emerging Writers' Grant from The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis.

**Ashley Gish** (BA) is writing a series of nonfiction nature books for children with The Creative Company.

**Melissa Gish** interviewed Allan Eskens for the fall 2016 issue of *Aji Magazine*. She also contributed a post-final-exam-grading-rant poem for the online literary magazine .

**Gwen Hart** has poems in *FreezeRay*, *The Rotary Dial*, *Circe's Lament*, *My Cruel Invention*, *Right Hand Pointing*, and *Scapegoat Review*, the *Main Street Rag (MSR)* anthology *About Time*, the anthology *Nuclear Impact: Broken Atoms in Our Hands*, and her poem "Lucky" received the Best in Volume designation in the *MSR* anthology, *Stuck in the Middle: Writing That Keeps You in Suspense*. Her story "Chuck's Couch" appeared in the February issue of *Litro* magazine.

**Dennis Herbert** was awarded the Toy Wilson Blethen Fine Arts Award from the Minnesota State Mankato College of Arts & Humanities. He had pieces published in the *Airgonaut*, *Squalorly*, *Jellyfish Review*, and *Paper Darts*.

**Elizabeth Horneber** has essays forthcoming in *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Chattahoochee Review*, and *Zone 3*.

**Jill Kalz's** short story "The Flight of Herman Engelmann" appears in the 2017 anthology *American Fiction: Volume 15* (New Rivers Press).

**Fran Kennedy** has a new position at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN as a full-time writing instructor.

**Nate LeBoutillier's** music and performance was featured in The Porchlights' second album, *A Ghost in Time*.

**Linton Lewis** was recently named Digital Content Editor at sixthcitymarketing.com and remains a regular contributor at comedy and entertainment site robotbutt.com.

**Jacob Little** is the new Managing Editor of *Brevity*. His nonfiction has appeared in *Gigantic Sequins*, *Split Lip Magazine*, *Crack the Spine*, and *DIAGRAM*. His poetry collection, *Night Shift at the Circle K*, was a finalist in *Iron Horse Literary Review's* 2016 contest.

**Laurie Lykken** published a poem in *The Southwest Journal*.

**Mat Oliver** writes scenarios for role-playing games as part of a local game store's outreach campaign to teach children about adventure gaming.

**Ronda Redmond** is working on a poetry manuscript and a novel.

**Aaron Rudolph's** manuscript, *The Sombrero Galaxy*, was accepted by Virtual Artists Collective and will be published soon.

**Lisa M. Bolt Simons** has published three middle grade "choose your path" sports novels, over 20 nonfiction children's titles, and an adult history book.

**Robin Throne** was selected by the Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts as writer-in-residence at Wolff Cottage in Fairhope, Alabama, for the month of October 2016.

**Michael Torres** was chosen to participate in the 2016-17 Mentor Series sponsored by the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, received a \$10,000 Minnesota State Arts Board grant, a travel and study grant from the Jerome Foundation, and a fellowship to attend the Palm Beach Poetry festival to work with Carl Phillips.

**James Van Amber** is currently ghost-writing a book for a Minnesota resident. The book he wrote in the 1990s, *Regina's Record*, is still selling and receiving positive comments.



Image courtesy of the University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

*Romancing Performance in Classical Hollywood Cinema* (SUNY Press), and, as co-editor, a new collection of essays, *Hamlet Lives in Hollywood: John Barrymore and the Acting Tradition Onscreen* (Edinburgh University Press), which also includes his new essay on Barrymore's performance in the 1933 film *Topaze*. Rybin published three new essays in edited collections. He also presented an essay and chaired a panel on the films of Kelly Reichardt at this year's Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Toronto, ON, Canada.

**Matthew Sewell** published crossword puzzles in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. He led the university's team that wrote a successful grant proposal for \$420,000 to meet emergency student needs over the next two years.

**Jennifer Veltsos** co-authored and published *Managerial Communication: Strategies and Practices, 7th edition* (SAGE) with Geraldine Hynes. She also presented research on the evolving content of business communication curriculum at the Association for Business Communication 2018 International Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

**Gwen Westerman** is publishing an essay on writing poetry in Dakota language in *Poetry Magazine*. She also published new and previously published poems in a new Graywolf Press anthology of 21 Poets for the 21st Century, titled *New Poets of Native Nations*, edited by Heid E. Erdrich. A short story appeared in a new collection of graphic work by indigenous writers, "Sovereign Traces: Not (Just) (An)Other" (Michigan State University Press and distributed in Canada by the University of Manitoba Press).

## 2018 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDENT AWARDS & GRANTS

The Minnesota State Mankato Department of English congratulates the following students for their excellence in the study of language, literature, film, writing, and/or English education.

The **Norman Adams Award** for an undergraduate English major who demonstrates excellence in English language or literature studies was awarded to **Chloe Nicol**.

**Norman Adams Award** / \$1000 – For an undergraduate English major who demonstrates excellence in English language or literature studies: **Josephine Braaten**

**Eddice B. Barber English Education Awards** / \$1100 – For an undergraduate Communication Arts and Literature Education major who will student-teach during the upcoming Fall or Spring term: **Tyler Hickman, Landen Parkin, & Kue Vang**

**Robert L. Carothers Award** / \$500 – For a student who demonstrates excellence in writing (2018 award given in Communication Arts and Literature Education): **Elizabeth Becker**

**Jane F. Earley American Literature Awards** / \$2000 – For excellent critical writing in the field of American literature: **Sara Knobe, Madeline Muotka, & Abigail Saffert**

**Excellence in English Scholarship** / \$1500 – For an undergraduate student pursuing a career in Communication Arts and Literature Education and who demonstrates financial need: **George Vang**

**Film Studies Scholarship** / \$1000 – For a continuing undergraduate Film and Media Studies major or Film Studies minor: **Shea Puent**

**Harold Fitterer Award** / \$1750 – For the junior in Communication Arts and Literature Education with the highest GPA: **Camielle Rykhus**

**Innovation in Teaching Writing Award** / \$200 – For graduate students teaching composition who demonstrate excellence and innovation in curriculum design or teaching practice: **Emily Johnson**

**William A. Payne Memorial Endowment** / \$1400 – For an undergraduate who demonstrates good character: **Miranda Mier**

**Outstanding English Graduate Student Award** / \$300 – For a graduate student in the last year of his/her program who has demonstrated outstanding professional activity during his/her graduate career at Minnesota State Mankato: **James Figy**

**Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award** / \$200 – For an adjunct faculty member who models commitment to continued growth as a teacher: **Michael Torres**

**Brian Sether Memorial Scholarship** / \$2500 – For an English, Speech, or Open Studies major with interdisciplinary and community interests who demonstrates financial need: **Alicia Utecht**

**Raymond and Florence Sponberg Scholarship** / \$1000 – For a female graduate student in English in her second or third semester: **Yen Vo**

**Marcia Thompson Awards** / \$1000 – For accomplished undergraduate majors pursuing a career in Communication Arts and Literature Education: **Kaylee Matuszak**

**Robert C. Wright Awards** / \$1000 / \$750 / \$500 – Three awards for undergraduate and graduate students whose creative writing samples are ranked by an external judge: **1st – Jordan Deveraux, 2nd – Ashley Richardson, & 3rd – Leah Alsaker**

**Donald and Burnetta Youel Award** / \$4000 – For a graduating English major with an outstanding undergraduate career, and whose achievement predicts and outstanding future career: **Jessica Staricka**

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## FLASHBACK - FOUNTAIN SWIMMING



*Students playing in the water of the Fountain circa 1970s.*

*Image courtesy of the University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato.*