

MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Creative Writing Program

Newsletter... September... 2018.....



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Damien Uriah Irwin grew up on the Oklahoma side of the Ozark mountains. His work can be found in such journals as *Heron Tree*, *Indiana Voice Journal*, and *Three Line Poetry*. In addition to being a poet, he is a stone-mason, gardener, and writer of folk songs.



Kimberly Sheridan is a writer, illustrator, fascial stretch therapist, and fitness coach. A New Jersey native, she spent too many years in New York City and Los Angeles and is overjoyed to slow things down and hear herself think in the majestic Northwest. Besides being in a creative cave, Kim also loves hiking, yoga, gratuitous flexing, coffee, vast spaces, and collecting beautiful journals she'll never actually use—Nonfiction.



Ryan Lawrence: I grew up in coastal North Carolina, but I've also hung my hat in Austin, a great place to live if you hate wearing shirts and love eating BBQ. I fell in love with Washington during a stint as a ranger in the North Cascades, and as a result, Eastern popped up on my MFA radar. Then I saw the GRE requirement, yuck. Then they dropped it, yay. I just moved from Portland where I worked at a French restaurant, and if you've been in the industry as long as I have, an MFA looks like a two-year smoke break. I've been begrudgingly splitting checks since I was 21, whenever that was. That was also around the time I decided to be a writer, but only recently have I figured out that I can't do it alone. I feel very lucky to be accepted here, and I'm excited to meet such a welcoming community—Nonfiction.



Keith VanBezooyen is from the San Francisco, Bay Area. He sings and plays guitar for an alt rock band called Billy Dwayne White and Horsemen of Apocalypse. He has written a screenplay called *Goat Boy*. Lately he has been teaching college English and exploring the west-Fiction



John T. Davis has had a passion for writing since he was in third grade and was always good at making things up. It was only natural that he was drawn to fiction when he started putting pen to paper. He moved to Spokane, WA from Orange County, California when he was eleven but considers Spokane his hometown after living here for nearly fifteen years. He looks forward to spending a lifetime of writing in this beautiful city.

**Welcome
MFA Students
Class of 2018-2020
We love you already!!**





Kevin Breen has come to Spokane by way of Baltimore, Maryland. He runs, hikes, writes fiction--pretty much anything that makes him feel like he "earned" his nap on the couch.



Micaela Gerhardt is a first year poet from the prairie. She grew up in Bismarck, ND and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN with degrees in English and Spanish. She spends as much of her time as possible visiting State and National Parks, where she likes to hike, kayak, and build the occasional sand castle or cairn. When she isn't outdoors, she enjoys cooking, reading, watching movies, and drinking chocolate malts.

Will Shook-Shoup is a poet, prairie native, hoop head (folks, that's b-ball), and armchair agnostotheologian. Literary Studies grad of a teensy Mennonite college in Kansas. Barista, batterer intervention program facilitator, and volunteer prison-writing teacher. Will moved to Spokane this Summer with his partner, Allie, and their best friend Wes. Their apartment has wood floors, a beautiful view of downtown, and absolutely no 3-prong wall outlets.



Libby Patrick is an incoming fiction student who spent three years living in the woods of Georgia in a camper. She enjoys campfires, hiking, and chasing squirrels with her dog and has been published in WUFC, Suncarochee Review, and UWG's Eclectic.



Sierra Sitzes will be joining EWU's MFA program as a fiction writer. An Airforce brat, her family settled when she was nine in her father's home town of Farmington, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing and a MA in English from Missouri State University. Her work has previously appeared in Crab Fat Magazine, The Esthetic Apostle, and Paddle Shots: A River Pretty Anthology.

New Students Not Pictured

Caitlin Feldman NF
 Gregory Scheiber P
 Benjamin Kuntz F

Hannah Cobb P
 Devin Devine P
 Carol Peters P

Benjamin Werner F
 Carol Cowan F



Cheers Kudos & Events

Published!! Kimberly Povloski

Congratulations Kimberly! Kimberly Povloski's *hell of birds* is the winner of the Driftwood Press first Adrift Chapbook Contest! *hell of birds* is a truly striking collection of poetry that guest judge Erica Dawson praises as "ferocious with its energy and acrobatics. I was surprised and anxious and uncomfortable and relieved and back and forth."

Available late 2018 / early 2019

Clare Wilson

Congratulations Clare! Clare's poem, *Friday, August 28, 2015*, is in the fall issue of *Whale Road Review*. whaleroadreview.com

MFA Orientation Meeting

Creative Writing Program Orientation on Tuesday, September 18th, from 4:00-5:00pm. Plan to attend to meet the faculty, EWU team members from Graduate Studies, Career Services and all of our Internship directors and Graduate Student Advisors.

Potluck outside after, to get to know one another
and play Cornhole!!!



Join Everyone for September's VoiceOver, where MFA students and faculty read stuff while everyone eats and drinks and gets to know all the cool kids. VoiceOver will be on September, 22nd, at 7:00 PM

Lindaman's Bistro 1235 S Grand Blvd, Spokane

Please "like" VoiceOver on Facebook so you won't ever miss any announcements or afterparty information:

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternVoiceOver/>

Trips!!

Get Lit! Programs is helping to coordinate a variety of trips and readings this year, including a trip to Nelson, BC that will offer students the chance to teach craft classes to undergraduates at Selkirk College, and a trip to Moscow, Idaho to read with our "MFA cousins". Please reach out to Kate Peterson at kpeter54@ewu.edu for more information on these optional trips, or to RSVP.



Kudos! Kailee Haong

Working on the Margins

Workshop by Kailee Haong

Grappling with and understanding marginalized identities can be a difficult and complex process. Writing and storytelling can be an excellent way to understand who you are and why that matters. If you've ever walked around a bookstore or library and wished there were more books and stories with characters like you, then this is the workshop for you!

Session 2B Saturday October 20th 12:00-1:15 pm
North Spokane County Library

R. Cass Bruner

In September R Cass Bruner will be working as a lecturer at Central Washington University, teaching Composition and Poetry. Congrats!!

Aunties Events

Saturday Sept. 15 - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Signing: M.R. Richardson *Galactic Mandate*

Saturday Sept. 15 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Chet Caskey + Jane Kirkpatrick book releases

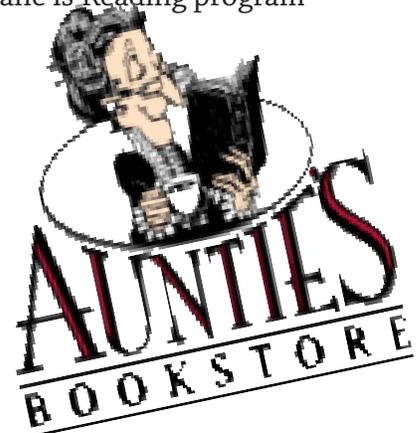
Saturday, Sept. 22 - 7:00 p.m.

Marie Lu: Wildcard [TICKETED EVENT]

Spokane Public Library, downtown

Thursday Sept. 27 - 1:00-2:30 & 7:00 - 8:30

Spokane is Reading program



The MFA Program's Most Important Person/Dog

“Proud House Mom” Pamela Russell & Phillip



When I decided to visit Spokane's Riverpoint Campus in May of 2017, I was told to make sure I introduced myself to Pam Russell, the Program Coordinator. "Whatever you need to know, she can help you." My plan was to move to Spokane in August to get settled in and acclimated, and I found out that Pam, in her role as organizer, navigator, gate-keeper, and knower of everything about the MFA program, was the perfect contact. What I didn't know then, but would soon discover, is that Pam is also a generous and kind nurturer (and I don't bestow those labels lightly). Many of us have our personal Pam (and her constant companion Phillip) stories. Here is mine: One week after school started, as I headed north on Nevada Street, an older white car, driven by an 18 year old (who was on drugs and outrunning the police in a high speed chase) shot out of a side street and T-boned me and my Kia, pushing us across four lanes. Stopped by the opposite curb, smoke pouring out of the engine, I pried myself out of the totaled car and waited for the medics who took me to the ER. Once there, I called a fellow student to say I would not be at an internship meeting and to let Pam know. Long story short, Pam and Phillip came to the ER a few hours later and gave me a ride home. The next morning she drove to the tow yard to retrieve my glasses and other belongings from the car before the insurance company removed it. This was all done with care, concern and compassion. I made it through my first quarter somehow and not in any small part due to this wonderful person. What follows is an interview with Pam so you can hear, in her own words, what kind of person we are so fortunate to have as our "Proud House Mom." ~KR, editor

KR: What do you see as the gist of your job as Program Coordinator?

PR: One thing I do is navigate the bureaucracy so that students can focus on why they are here, I want to make their experience as seamless as possible. We are blessed to have expert master teachers to learn from and if I can give only one piece of advice it is to "show up and write." This program is a beginning not an ending and it gives you tools to fill your tool box. Another bit of advice is to learn time management so you can juggle classes, GSAs, internships, all of it.

KR: You mentioned that you are responsible for the budget, organizing travel, course scheduling, advertising, many aspects of operations, and whatever else is asked of you by faculty and the administration. Other than those practical things, what fulfills you about this job?

PR: This job gives me purpose. I want to have a safe space students can come to decompress. Students shouldn't be shy. Come in and introduce yourself at the beginning of the year. If the office is full of people, come in anyway! Stick your face in the door and say, "Hi Pam, I'm ____." Treat my office like mom's kitchen. If you're having a bad day, but don't really want to talk about it just come on in and hang out with Phillip. I enjoy fielding calls about the program, giving information to people who are interested.

KR: What has been the very best experience for you?

PR: The best day is watching students graduate. It's like watching my own children graduate. Students are an extension of my family, and my family gets bigger every year.

KR: What final bit of advice can you give to the MFA students?

PR: I'd encourage them to not be shy about promoting themselves. Tell me if you get an award or are published and I can let everyone know. Tell the editor of the newsletter.



Pam Russell started her tenure as Program Coordinator of the EWU MFA program in 2005, with a hiatus from 2011-2015. She came back to the job in 2015 and is still here! Pam received her bachelors in Interdisciplinary studies from EWU in 2007. She also has a background in news publishing working with the Priest River Times in the late '90s.

Letter from the Editor

Dear MFA People!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 year. I am so excited to see everyone from last year and to meet the new crop of creatives who've come to us from all over the country to play in our inland sandbox. I wanted to pass on some tips that will help you connect with other students, who can become a major support as you navigate your years in the program.

1. Make sure you read all the email blasts from Pam. You don't want to miss any events or get-togethers, readings, visiting authors, or opportunities to submit.
2. Attend as many VoiceOvers as you can. Reading or listening to our brave students and faculty put themselves out there, making us laugh and cry is inspiring. And the venues always have great food!
3. Join the MFA past and present students facebook page to keep up with announcements and opportunities, if you are social media inclined.
4. The free weekly Inlander has a wealth of information about what is happening in Spokane and outlying areas in music, art, writing, movies, food and all things good for us creative types.
5. Check out the internships and attend the orientation meetings.
6. If you have a question, ask Pam or a second year student.
9. Speaking of questions, starting in October, we are bringing back the "Dear Second Year" column in this newsletter, so any first years can send me a question (email, below) and I will find a second year to answer it.

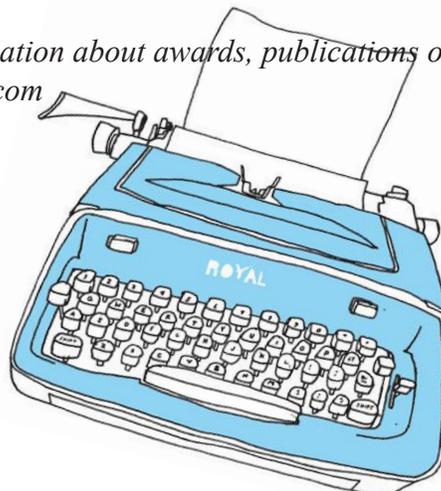
Coming next month: Visiting Writer Series information, Jonathan Johnson's new book release event, Voice-Over dates and lots more!

See you on the second floor!

Kerry

Kerry Rutherford
kerryrutherford6@gmail.com

Remember to send an email with any information about awards, publications or events for the October newsletter to: kerryrutherford6@gmail.com



Opportunities for Submission

The Swamp Literary Magazine

Submissions Open

The Swamp publishes work that evokes a sense of place, which, for The Swamp, is broadly defined. We look forward to reading work that we can inhabit, no matter its geography. We do give preference to the southern gothic, to poems and stories wrapped in a heavy coat of humidity. With that said, we seek to publish all work that surprises us with new territory, with characters and landscapes we don't get the chance often enough to read about. The Swamp is an annual print magazine. We welcome art, poetry, essay, and short fiction submissions. Send us place-based work that grounds us and with something to say that moves us.

Submission link online at:

<http://www.theswampmagazine.com/submit/>

University of Iowa Press Iowa Short Fiction Award:

Entries for the competition should be postmarked between August 1 and September 30 No Fee

Any writer who has not previously published a volume of prose fiction is eligible to enter the competition. Previously entered manuscripts that have been revised may be resubmitted. Writers are still eligible if they have published a volume of poetry or any work in a language other than English or if they have self-published a work in a small print run. Writers are still eligible if they are living abroad or are non-US citizens writing in English. The manuscript must be a collection of short stories in English of at least 150 word-processed, double-spaced pages. We do not accept e-mail submissions.

To see all guidelines for submission:

<https://www.uiopress.uiowa.edu/authors/iowa-short-fiction.htm>

Crab Creek Review

The reading period is open from September 15 through November 15. The editors seek original, unpublished poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction via Submittable. Submissions are free, and payment is in contributor copies. We look forward to reading your work, and encourage early submissions.

Guidelines:

<http://www.crabcreekreview.org/submissions.html>

River Teeth

Submissions are accepted September 1 to December 1 and January 1 to May 1.

River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative was co-founded in 1999 by Joe Mackall and Dan Lehman, professors at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. The journal is recognized as a national leader in publishing quality essays, memoir, and literary journalism. River Teeth invites submissions of creative nonfiction, including narrative reportage, essays, and memoirs, as well as critical essays that examine the emerging genre and that explore the impact of nonfiction narrative on the lives of its writers, subjects, and readers.

Flash nonfiction submissions to the River Teeth weekly column, Beautiful Things, should be 250 words or less. Please submit one beautiful thing at a time. Year round. River Teeth uses Submittable to read and track your submissions

<http://www.riverteethjournal.com>

Valuable Resource

TheJohnFox.com is a website with publishing resources and lists. The following lists are from 2015:

Fiction: This list ranks literary magazines by how often their short stories have appeared in the Best American Short Stories.

<https://thejohnfox.com/ranking-of-literary-journals/>

Nonfiction: This list uses the Best American Essays series to rank magazines, literary journals, newspapers and other literary nonfiction markets by how often their essays are cited in the anthology.

<https://thejohnfox.com/ranking-of-literary-nonfiction>

