

Vanderbilt Creative Writing

Fall 2023 | Volume 2

Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences

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VOLUME 2

FALL 2023

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are very proud to present our 2nd issue of the Vanderbilt University Creative Writing newsletter. As I perused its pages before going to press, the phrase “dynamic support” came to mind, which is the foundation of both undergraduate and graduate students’ success.

This fall, we welcome two alumni of Vandy’s creative writing community, Olatunde Osinaike, (BS, Engineering ‘15), whose book *Tender Headed* won the esteemed 2022 National Poetry Series Prize, and LA-based screenwriter Julia Seales (BA, English/Creative Writing ‘15), author of *A Most Agreeable Murder: A Novel*. Next spring, fiction writer Claire Jimenez (MFA ‘14), Edgar Kunz (MFA ‘15), and Anders Carson-Wee (MFA ‘15) all return to campus with new books.

Success of this caliber is the direct result of mentorship and available resources for students to pursue opportunities for personal and creative growth. This past summer, through the support of an endowment fund, MFA students attended writing conferences throughout the world and traveled to Ireland, China, and Hawaii. These immersive experiences allowed for extensive exploration that advanced their writing projects and professional network.

The Creative Writing Program also implemented two projects that are new collaborations with campus colleagues. Last year, in partnership with the Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy, we created a prize for the best poem written by students enrolled in any Tennessee college or university. Thanks to a collaboration between Vanderbilt University’s Office of the Chancellor, Vanderbilt University Press and Vanderbilt University’s English Department, the Creative Writing Program will launch next year an annual contest for a book of poetry. In the future, we will continue to further opportunities for new voices in literature.

Last year, as part of the Gertrude C. and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series, we welcomed emergent and established writers including Aria Aber, Carolyn Forché, Katie Kitamura, Uwem Akpan, Megha Majumdar, John Murillo, among many other fine writers. We are excited to welcome this academic year a roster of award-winning authors who imaginatively frame the most pressing and critical questions we face today as a global community. Additionally, this year, we welcome professionals in the book industry to campus including agents, digital storytellers, and magazine and book editors in a series titled “The Business of Writing.”

So, please read this issue closely and discover the achievements of our students, faculty, alumni, and community. The newsletter only gives a small window into the dynamic conversations that occur in our classrooms, at literary events, and on the page. Speaking of which, once you read about their publications, seek them out. Their stories and poems do more than delight and entertain. They compel us to reflect on the function of the imagination in our time.

In conclusion, our long-time friend Rene Colehour took a position at the Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science. As our chair Jennifer Fay expressed, “She was the backbone of the Creative Writing Program and a stalwart presence in our department for the last eight years, and it is hard to imagine Benson without her. She is an amazing supporter of our writers, a cheerful and always helpful presence in the department, and a plant-whisperer of the first order, among many things.” This fall, we enthusiastically welcome to the English Department, administrators Sally Buck, Meredith Moore, and Arianna Pappas.

Yours,



Professor Major Jackson

Gertrude Conway Vanderbilt Chair in the Humanities
Director of the MFA Program and Creative Writing



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

ZZ PACKER



What has your first year teaching in the Vanderbilt MFA program been like so far?

It's been really fantastic, in terms of the MFA program because we just get such great quality, amazing writers, and there's just so few of them, and it makes for a really cohesive, cozy and yet really thrilling environment to be meeting minds with these budding writers (really I think most of them are past the budding stage). They're really in this stage of efflorescence, and that's always exciting to me. Even though I'm thrilled always to meet my writing heroes like Lorrie Moore or Tony [Earley] in the fiction world, it's also really great to meet people who you can almost see tendrils of their career trajectory a little bit ahead of time, and you're really excited and that's great. There's so much writing out there and so much of it is competent or even mediocre, so when you see someone who's writing really well and they're new then it's incredibly exciting, and there's no feeling quite like that for me.

What do you believe are the most crucial steps a Vanderbilt undergraduate should pursue as a writer?

Number one: reading. I will encounter grown adults who also neglect to understand that you can't really have a good template for writing unless you are a reader. You can't make it as a writer if you haven't read widely and deeply. Sometimes I'll teach at these conferences and you'll see people who really desperately want to be writers and they don't read; so for undergraduates it really is the reading. I think the second one would be exercises. If you do an exercise one night and then the next exercise the next night, you can see various mistakes and you can see in these short bursts what some problems are. On the other hand, you can also develop and target a writing muscle in an exercise that you wouldn't necessarily even think of isolating in a story. So dedicate yourself to these exercises, and they don't have to be successful. The point isn't the success, the point is exercising! No one's going to be good at the beginning; you start off little by little and you try to develop. The third one, I would probably say community because I think that having community holds you accountable to your dreams of being a writer. Having people who can look at your stuff and grow and develop is valuable.

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm working on a nonfiction book about the Breonna Taylor tragedy, or murder I guess you could say, and how it unfortunately isn't unique, and how a lot of the macro factors and that are kind of a perfect storm of bad public policy, city failure, city government, bad policing tactics and strategies as well as mainlining segregation have contributed to this and to these other deaths that we've seen.

FACULTY >>> ACHIEVEMENTS



SHEBA KARIM

Sheba's short script, *Blighted*, was a finalist at the 2022 Austin Film Festival. Her short story, "Goodbye Obama", was published in the winter 2023 issue of *Sewanee Review*.

LYDIA CONKLIN

Lydia's story collection, *Rainbow Rainbow*, was longlisted for the Story Prize and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. They had stories come out in *McSweeney's* and the *Sewanee Review*.



LORRIE MOORE

Lorrie's novel, *I Am Homeless if This Is Not My Home*, was published in Spring 2023 and received reviews from *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, NPR, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *AP News*, and more.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

DIDI JACKSON

Didi published the poem “Symptoms” in *World Literature Today* and “Early Morning Fires” in *Fugue Literary Journal*, Issue 63.



BRITTANY ACKERMAN

Brittany’s essays have been featured in *The Champagne Room*, *NiftyLit* and *Pine Hills Review*.



RICK HILLES

Rick published the chapbook *My Roberto Clemente* and received recognition as a Finalist for the 2022 Verse/Tomaž Šalamun Chapbook Prize.



MAJOR JACKSON

Major published his most recent book of poetry, *Razzle Dazzle: New & Selected Poems*. He was elected to be a member of The American Academy of Arts & Science and has been featured on several podcasts.



3RD YEAR MFA CANDIDATES



Tan Fireall

Tan attended the Sewanee Writers' Conference in Summer 2023.



Kanak Kapur

Kanak has a story forthcoming in the *Sewanee Review*.



Em Palughi

Em was a finalist in both the Tennessee Williams and the Saints and Sinners poetry contests.



Alex Peterson

Alex's poetry was published in *Gulf Coast* and *Frontier*, and she attended the Seamus Heaney Centre Summer Workshop in Belfast, Ireland.



Jess Sumalpong

Jess is working on a collection of linked stories focused on tourism in Hawaii, grieving women and girls, and a mysterious game show.



2ND YEAR MFA CANDIDATES



Alissa Barr Morgan

Alissa's poetry is forthcoming in *Ninth Letter*, and she gave a reading at Vanderbilt's Family Weekend.



Nathan Blum

Nathan attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and has stories forthcoming in *Cagibi* and *Ploughshares*.



Michael Carlson

Michael read from his fiction piece, "Commuting", at Vanderbilt's 2023 Family Weekend.



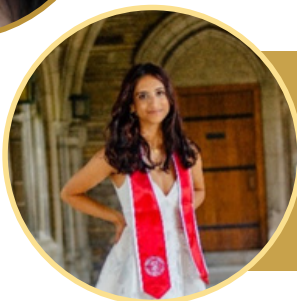
Carson Colenbaugh

Carson's poetry is forthcoming from *Terrain.org*, *The Hollins Critic* and *Still: The Journal*, and he will be a 2024 Tor House Foundation Fellow.



Lela Ni

Lela read from their fiction piece, "Valhalla", at Vanderbilt's 2023 Family Weekend.



Anika Potluri

Anika is serving as MFA Vice President of the English Graduate Student Association and spent her summer as an apprentice at a Zen Buddhist monastery.

1ST YEAR MFA CANDIDATES



Langston Cotman

Langston is working on a novella about people who sell counterfeit forks.



Kumari Devarajan

Kumari attended the Tin House Summer Workshop in Summer 2023.



Sydney Mayes

Sydney's poem, "in his absence" is forthcoming in the Spring 2023 edition of *Prairie Schooner*.



Athena Nassar

Athena's poem, "Love is not always song, but the swelling" was published in *The Atlantic* in October 2023.



Iman Saleem

Iman is researching & writing a novel about the 2022 Sri Lankan protests.



Ajla Dizdarevic

Ajla was a finalist for the 2023 PEN Emerging Voices Fellowship and co-created an initiative to help high school students prepare for college.

UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS



PUBLICATIONS & PRIZES

Ilana Drake's poem, "watching", was published in *The Hooghly Review* in April 2023.

Jiya Kashyap won TVR's 2022 poetry prize with the poem "The Maker."

Kevin Loo won TVR's 2022 prose prize with the story "House." He was the recipient of the 2023 Merrill Moore prize.

*Sawyer Sussner's work was featured this year in EN*gendered Magazine and Cutbow Quarterly. He was also featured as the undergraduate student speaker at two Trans and Nonbinary Author Series Events, preceding Casey Plett and Lydia Conklin.*

CONGRATS, TVR!

The Vanderbilt Review's 2022 edition was a finalist for the College Media Association's 2022-23 Pinnacle Award for Literary Magazine of the Year.



CLASS OF '24-'28: CREATIVE WRITING MAJORS



Myles Ailster
Juliana Anuakpado
Eli Apple
Stephan Bellamy
Natalie Blum
Blythe Bouza
Cady Butcher
Molly Buffenbarger
Carlos Caballero
Eva Cheraisi
Ilana Drake
Austin Gu
Aashi Gurijala
Savannah Harris
Samantha Jacobs

Evan Kerr
Katerina Krizner
Lillian LeJeune
Alexandra Lee
Amanda Maeglin
Sanat Malik
Aidan Marini
Ashlyn Mayer
Tenley Noonan

Sofia Olivares
David Oliver
Oghosa Omobude
Avani Putcha
Eshan Subramaniam
Jenna Weber
Davis Works
Joy Yin
Shi Zhang

Student Voices

“Throughout my career at Vanderbilt, I have often questioned myself. Perhaps I don't fit, I asked myself, perhaps I am too awkward towards other people? And then there was always the question -- Alex, what will you do when you graduate, when you plunge into the cruel coldness of a world? But against such darkness, creative writing shone through like a streetlamp, whose milky light soothes my anguish, hesitation, or reproach over my own incompetence in so many ways.

Alongside it, my knowledge from literary studies, my conversation with authors of the past, serves as a lighthouse on the shore, casting its light upon me as I load up all my uncomfortable emotions in a vessel and scrutinize it, slowly, sailing into the cold sea. (Yes, I sometimes see Shakespeare and Fanon and Fitzgerald sitting beside me and staring at my work as my pen spun fast within my hand...) Writing is a solitary process, according to Ishiguro, but my best, most cherished moments were spent communicating with others -- guest speakers, professors, my peers -- discussing with them, ideas sparking from the collision of thoughts.

And if I have any advice for incoming friends, it is to cherish these moments, to capture the goblins that danced in your head and attempt to fly away into the sun following your class discussions. Perhaps I will head into a career of research in business, of digging into some truth in the pieces of careless fiction slipping off the tongues of great marketers (and perhaps attempting to stop them), but I know that I will write on, in one form or another, as my career or in my free time, for once I write I will always be a writer.”

- Alex Li, Class of 2023

UNDERGRADUATES: GET INVOLVED

VandyWrites Team from left to right: Katerina Krizner (Vice President), Emily Brady (Secretary), Cady Butcher (Treasurer), Liam Betts (President)



Vanderbilt Review Editors from left to right: Annie Shin (Poetry Editor), Lillian Zheng (Editor in Chief), Lily Britto (Layout Editor), Suha Arshad (Art Editor), Liam Betts (Prose Editor), Paige Elliott (Digital Content Editor)

The Vanderbilt Review Undergraduate Literary and Arts Magazine



The Vanderbilt Review is launching a new website, vanderbiltreview.com along with a fully digital magazine releasing in 2024. Prose, poetry, and art submissions are open now until Dec 10, the link can be found on our website! Lilly Zheng is the editor in chief this year and you can contact her with any questions (lillian.m.zheng@vanderbilt.edu)

VandyWrites

VandyWrites, a club creating a community for Vanderbilt's writers, has doubled in size since 2022. Last year, the club hosted a talk with Teresa Gouda on climate fiction and an author interview with Vanderbilt PhD Micaiah Johnson on writing and her novel *Space Between Worlds*. This year they recently hosted a science fiction discussion with Professor Jay Clayton. They are currently planning a Halloween ghost stories event and forming writing groups for NaNoWriMo. You can contact the president Liam Betts (liam.betts@vanderbilt.edu) if you'd like to connect with our community of Vanderbilt's writers! They host writing hour every Tues/Wed in Sarratt 208 from 8-9 PM. Anyone can stop by, meet other writers, and chat about their projects!

A dark green poster with white and gold text. At the top, it says "Submissions are open!" in a large, elegant font. To the right, it says "CLOSING 12/10". In the center, there is a circular image of a hand holding a stack of coins. To the left of the image, it says "CASH PRIZES FOR CATEGORY WINNERS!". To the right, it says "FICTION, CREATIVE NONFICTION, SCRIPTS ALL ACCEPTED.". At the bottom, it says "The Vanderbilt Review is accepting prose, poetry, and art pieces in any medium — including music and video!". At the very bottom, it says "SUBMIT NOW AT VANDERBILTREVIEW.COM" with two small gold stars on either side.

»» VANDERBILT ««

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



GRADUATE PUBLICATION

Editors-in-Chief

Nathan Blum &
Carson Colenbaugh

»» NASHVILLE REVIEW

Nashville Review seeks to publish “the best work we can get our hands on, period”. They hope to provide a venue for both distinguished and emerging artists.

To learn more about each magazine and to submit your work, please visit the magazines' websites.



The Vanderbilt Review
Undergraduate Literary and Arts Magazine



UNDERGRADUATE PUBLICATIONS

Vanderbilt Review: Editors-in-Chief
Lillian Zheng

GERTRUDE C. & HAROLD S. VANDERBILT VISITING WRITERS SERIES

FALL 2023

All readings occur Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Locations TBA



SIGRID NUNEZ | SEPT. 21 >>>

Sigrid Nunez has published eight novels, including *A Feather on the Breath of God*, *The Last of Her Kind*, *Salvation City*, *The Friend*, and, most recently, *What Are You Going Through*. Her new novel, *The Vulnerables*, will be published in November 2023. Nunez is also the author of *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*. *The Friend*, a *New York Times* bestseller, won the 2018 National Book Award and was a 2019 Simpson/Joyce Carol Oates Prize finalist. Nunez's other honors and awards include a Whiting Writer's Award, a Berlin Prize Fellowship, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award, the Rome Prize in Literature, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She currently teaches in the MFA program in creative writing at Hunter College.

PATRICIA SMITH | SEPT. 28 >>>

Patricia Smith, visiting professor of creative writing in the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, is the winner of the 2021 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, an award for lifetime achievement from the Poetry Foundation. She is the author of eight books of poetry, including *Incendiary Art*, winner of the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Award for Poetry, the 2017 LA Times Book Prize, the 2018 NAACP Image Award, and a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize; *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize from the Academy of American Poets; and *Blood Dazzler*, a National Book Award finalist. Her most recent book of poetry, *Unshuttered*, is a collection of dramatic monologues accompanied by 19th-century photos of African Americans.



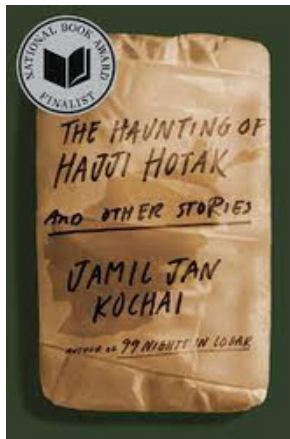
GERTRUDE C. & HAROLD S. VANDERBILT VISITING WRITERS SERIES

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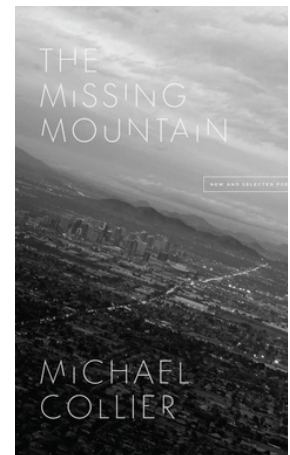
JAMIL JAN KOCHAI | OCT. 12 >>>



Jamil Jan Kochai is the author of *The Haunting of Hajji Hotak and Other Stories*, winner of the 2023 Aspen Words Literary Prize and a finalist for the 2022 National Book Award. His debut novel, *99 Nights in Logar*, was a finalist for the Pen/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel. His short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and *The Best American Short Stories*. His essays have been published in *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Kochai was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and a Truman Capote Fellow at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Currently, he is a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University.

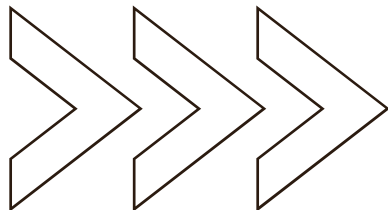
MICHAEL COLLIER | OCT. 26 >>>

Michael Collier is the author of eight books of poems, among them, *The Missing Mountain: New & Selected Poems* and *The Ledge*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Collier has received Guggenheim and Thomas Watson fellowships, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, a "Discovery"/The Nation Award, the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award from the Poetry Society of America, and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences from 1994-2017 and Poet Laureate of Maryland from 2001-2004, he is an emeritus professor of English.



FALL 2023

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Locations TBA



ANGIE CRUZ | NOV. 9 >>>

Angie Cruz's most recent novel *How Not To Drown in A Glass of Water* (2022) is a finalist for the 2024 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, shortlisted for The Aspen Words Literary Prize, winner of the Gold Medal, Latino Book Award/The Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Book Award, longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Literary Prize and chosen for *The New York Times* 100 Notable Books of 2022 and *The Washington Post* 50 Notable Works of Fiction. Her novel, *Dominicana* was the inaugural book pick for GMA book club and shortlisted for The Women's Prize and longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction, among other accolades. She's the founder and Editor-in-chief of the award winning literary journal, *Aster(ix)* and is currently an Associate Professor at University of Pittsburgh.

MAGGIE MILLNER | NOV. 30 >>>

Maggie Millner is the author of *Couplets*, published by FSG (US). Maggie's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *POETRY*, *Kenyon Review*, *BOMB*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. She is a Lecturer at Yale and a Senior Editor at *The Yale Review*. Maggie was the Jan Gabriel Fellow at NYU, where she received her MFA. She is also the recipient of fellowships from Poets & Writers, the Community of Writers, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Disquiet Literary Program, and the Fine Arts Work Center, as well as the Robert & Adele Schiff Award, the 10th Annual *Narrative Poetry Prize*, and the *Third Coast Poetry Prize*.



GERTRUDE C. & HAROLD S. VANDERBILT VISITING WRITERS SERIES

FALL 2023

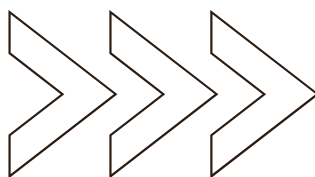
All readings occur Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Locations TBA



MYKA KIELBON | NOV. 2ND

"THE BUSINESS OF WRITING" SERIES

Myka Kielbon is a poet and the producer of *The Slowdown*. Her other audio work is [here](#). She co-hosts the live reading series *Boyfriends & Family*. She lives on the West Coast.



GIVING REMINDER



Please consider making a donation to the Vanderbilt Creative Writing Program to support future events like these. To do so, go to the [Vanderbilt Giving Page](#), enter your donation, select "Other," and search for "Creative Writing Program."

THIS SPEAKER SERIES IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GERTRUDE C. AND HAROLD S. VANDERBILT FUND.

OPPORTUNITIES

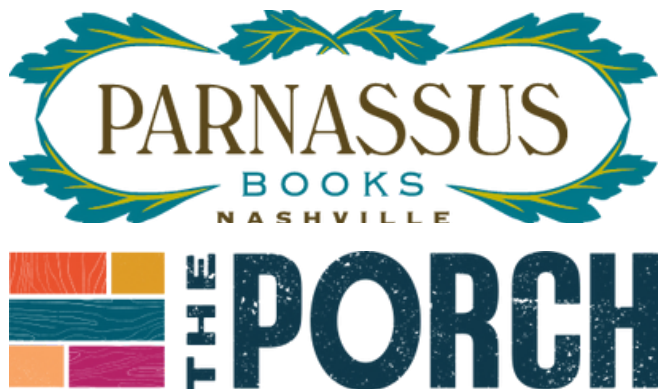


Southern Festival of Books 2023

'The Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written Word' is among the oldest literary festivals in the country, annually welcoming hundreds of authors and thousands of visitors to downtown Nashville each October.

The Festival will take place Saturday, Oct 21 and Sunday, Oct 22. It is free and includes performances, food trucks, and loads of publishers and booksellers. We look forward to seeing you downtown at the Bicentennial Mall, Tennessee State Museum, and Tennessee State Library.

See also:



Vanderbilt and The Porch hosted an event featuring author Jess Row in April, 2023. Left to right: ZZ Packer, Allison Schacter, Jess Row, Didi Jackson, Susannah Felts, Katie McDougal, Major Jackson

Resources

- **Fuse:** Undergraduate Literary Journal Directory
- **BookJobs:** Internships
- **New Pages:** Call for Submissions
- **New Pages:** Undergraduate Literary Journals
- **Poets and Writers:** Contests, Grants, and Awards
- **Poets and Writers:** Conferences and Residencies

ALUMNI CORNER

News & Achievements

Krishna Ammisetty (BA '18) published a short story, "Pinky Promise," on *Medium*.

Ariana Yeatts-Lonske (BA '18) was a finalist for *december* magazine's 2022 Jeff Marks Poetry Prize for her poem, "Papa Explains Why He Didn't Go to the Vietnam Sit-In the Night They Dragged His Friends to Montgomery County Jail."

Madeline Goetz (BA '18) co-authored a humor piece, "Welcome to Our Cul-de-Sac," in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*.

Kelly Perry (BA '18) published an essay, "The Thai-American Duality," in *The Lancet Global Health*.

Kevin Wilson (BA '00) published a novel, *Now Is Not the Time To Panic*.

This Spring, we will welcome back MFA Alumni **Edgar Kunz**, **Anders Carlson-Wee**, and **Claire Jiménez** for a special reading in Buttrick 101 on March 21, 2023 at 7pm.

ALUMNI, SEND US YOUR NEWS!



Please email any publications, fellowships, residencies, awards, or other writing-related accomplishments to creativewriting@vanderbilt.edu so we can celebrate with you!

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MFA ALUMNI

2008 - 2023

Amanda Abel
Chad Abushanab
Christopher Adamson
Ricardo Baez
Matt Baker
Rebecca Bernard
Jesse Bertron
Laura Birdsall
Destiny Birdsong
Alicia Brandewie
Elena Britos
Courtney Brown
Rita Bullwinkel
Claire Burgess
Maria Carlos
Anders Carlson-Wee
Carrie Causey
Bryn Chancellor
Anne Charlton
Tiana Clark
Lee Conell
Hayes Cooper
Melissa Cundieff
Joanna Currey
Stephanie Davis
Kendra DeColo
Cara Dees
Cydnee Devereaux
Mary Deyoe
Carla Diaz

Lisa Dordal
Reid Douglass
Carlina Duan
Katie Foster
Tamar Fox
Alina Grabowski
Meredith Gray
Zachary Greenberg
Simon Han
Dan Haney
Mark Haslam
Leigh Holland
Lara Hughes
Yi Jiang
Claire Jimenez
Rebecca Kantor
Chris Ketchum
Edgar Kunz
Susanna Kwan
Danny Lang-Perez
Marysa LaRowe
Jessica Lee
Ben Lesousky
W.S. Lyon
Sam Marshall
Max McDonough
Hassaan Mirza
Alex Moody
Joshua Moore
John Mulcare

Kelsey Norris
Chelsea Novello
Wade Ostrowski
Maddy Parsley
Derek Pfister
Stephanie Pruitt
Andrew Rahal
Kiyoko Reidy
Samuel Rutter
Freya Sachs
Michael Sarnowski
Jill Schepmann
John Shakespear
Jess Silfa
Anna Silverstein
Mary Somerville
Lily Someson
Caroline Stevens
Sophia Stid
Sara Strong
Valerie Sullivan
Janet Thielke
Clay Travis
Pallavi Wakharkar
Matthew Warren
Jenna Williams
Simone Wolff
Theodore Yurevitch
Maggie Zebracka

CONGRATS MFA GRADS!

»»» 2023 GRADUATES:



MFA Candidates 2023 from left to right: Jess Silfa (Fiction), Lily Someson (Poetry), Danny Lang-Perez (Fiction), Sam Marshall (Fiction), John Mulcare (Poetry) and Caroline Stevens (Poetry)

»»» PROGRAM PHOTOS:



Poet Patricia Smith with 3rd Year MFA Candidate Tan Fireall at Smith's Fall 2023 Reading for the Gertrude C. and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series.



3rd Year MFA Candidate Jess Sumalpong introducing the Graduating Class of MFA 2023 MFA Candidates in August.

»»» PROGRAM PHOTOS:



ZZ Packer, Rick Hilles and Tony Earley at the Fall 2023 English Department Rooftop Party Event.



Didi and Major Jackson with Ocean Vuong at Ocean's reading at Parnassus Bookstore.

»»» NEW CREATIVE WRITING ADMINISTRATORS:



Photo by: Grey Kenna

Meredith Moore joins us from Sewanee, TN, where she graduated in 2022 and previously worked as the 22-23 Tennessee Williams Post-Baccalaureate Fellow for the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She is the new Program Coordinator for the Creative Writing MFA and the English PhD Graduate Programs here at Vanderbilt.



Arianna Pappas earned her BA in Songwriting at Belmont University in 2022. She is a local singer, songwriter, and performer. As the new Events Specialist, Arianna assists visiting writers and English professors with the coordinating of department events.





PROGRAM CONTACTS

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Fay
Department Chair

Justin Quarry
Program Coordinator for Creative Writing

Emily Hobbs
Administrative Manager

Sally Buck
Administrative Specialist for Undergraduate Programs

Meredith Moore
Program Coordinator for PhD & MFA

Arianna Pappas
Events Specialist for Visiting Writers



Department Resources

To view this newsletter digitally, please scan the QR code below or visit as.vanderbilt.edu/english/creative-writing-newsletter/

For program resources, please visit as.vanderbilt.edu/english/



Faculty

Fiction

Lydia Conklin, Tony Earley,
Lorrie Moore, ZZ Packer,
Nancy Reisman

Poetry

Rick Hilles, Didi Jackson,
Major Jackson

Lecturers

Lisa Dordal, Sandy Solomon,
Sheba Karim, Justin Quarry,
Amanda Little, Brittany Ackermann

331 Benson Science Hall | 2301 Vanderbilt Place | PMB 351654 | Nashville, TN 37235-1654