

INLAND NORTHWEST CENTER FOR WRITERS

CREATIVE WRITING MFA PROGRAM AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2015



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ALUMNA Q&A

A CONVERSATION WITH BETHANY SCHULTZ HURST



PHOTO BY TAGEN TOWSLEY BAKER

Inland Northwest Center for Creative Writing alumni Bethany Schultz Hurst graduated in 2003. Since then, she has been making a name for herself with her poetry.

Bethany Schultz Hurst is the author of *Miss Lost Nation*, which won the 2013 Robert Dana-Anhinga Prize for Poetry. Her work has been selected for Best American Poetry 2015 and appears in journals such as *American Literary Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *New Ohio Review*. She lives in Pocatello, Idaho, where she teaches at Idaho State University.

We asked her a few questions about her life after grad school and beyond.

What years were you in the MFA program and what were you involved in? How did those experiences help ready you for what you're currently doing?

I was in the MFA program 2001-2003. I was a T.A. and taught composition courses as well as one creative writing course; the pedagogy training and practical experience I received was super valuable to my teaching now. I also worked on *Willow Springs*; in my second year, I was the poetry editor. Working on a literary magazine helped inform my view of the publication process. I saw first-hand the incredible volume of submissions and the daunting process of reading through them all. It helped me understand as a writer that rejection is inevitable, not necessarily a commentary on a writer's worth. And of course my classroom and thesis work most directly prepared me to pursue my writing. In workshop, I learned more about the necessity of revision and about how different writers and readers approach a piece of writing.

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Q&A (CONTINUED)

I'm particularly thankful for the guidance of Johnathan Johnson and Chris Howell; two teachers very different from each other who both taught me tremendous amount not only about writing, but about being generous and rigorous teachers of writing.

What do you do now?

I'm an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Idaho State University (ISU) in Pocatello, Idaho.

What were the years following your MFA like? Did you get a job immediately? Do you have any advice about what to do with this period of time?

I did get a job right after my MFA; I started teaching full-time as a non-tenure track lecturer here at ISU. It was several years before I was ready to apply for tenure-track jobs. The first few years out of the program were challenging. I had to figure out first how to teach four classes at once, and then how to incorporate writing into that schedule. I missed my writing community from the MFA program. I felt a little directionless. I did keep writing, but kept it mostly to myself. Luckily, I eventually met a couple of other poets in Pocatello that I was compatible with, and we began workshopping. When I began paying more consistent and professional attention to my writing, that's when things started to shape up a bit more. I got more serious about pursuing publication and revising my MFA thesis into a book manuscript.

I'd advise newly-minted MFAs to

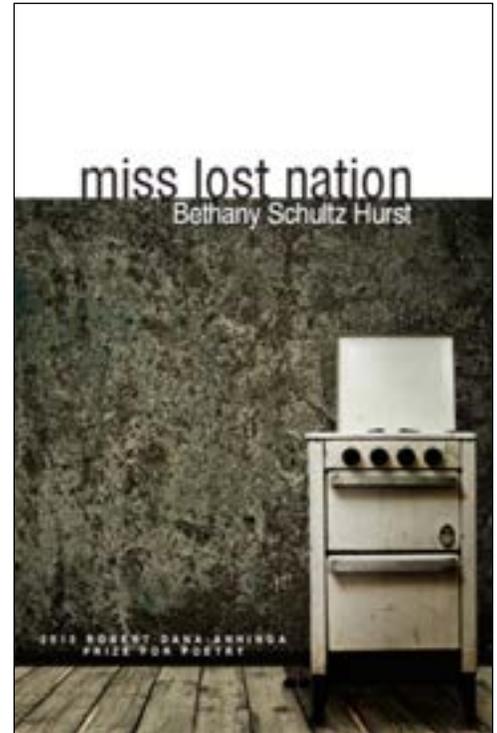
be patient with themselves as they establish their new routines. I think we should accept that some periods of transition may be less productive for our writing and not spend too much energy freaking out about it. But maybe we can minimize those less productive periods by nurturing supportive writing relationships and setting clear goals for ourselves. My less-than-productive period stretched on maybe a little longer than it needed to.

What's the most memorable experience of your time at Eastern?

The time I spent in the area --going to the Yaak Valley, for instance, after reading Rick Bass-- the stands out as the most memorable. I was getting to know a new landscape and cultural perspective and was doing so surrounded by peers and faculty who encouraged meaningful observation and interactions. I think that's why place continues to be important to me in my writing.

What are your publication tricks - if you have any? Do you submit often? Would you care to share some of your publication credentials? What has that been like for you?

I don't think I have any real tricks. I do try to keep submissions out at about ten journals at any particular time; that way, I don't get fixated on any one publication possibility. It's less crushing that way when/if the rejection comes. Just business as usual. And recently, I read a post by former Crab Creek Review Co-Editor Kelli Russell Agodon called "Submit Like a Man," where Agodon points out that male writers tend to follow up on encouraging rejections (the ones that say, "please do send again") more frequently and



SCHULTZ HURST'S BOOK OF POETRY

more quickly, whereas female writers tend to wait several months before resubmitting, if they do at all. Ever since, I've been trying to be more diligent about re-submissions. Several of my publications -- like Drunken Boat, New Ohio Review, American Literary Review-- have come after the journal has previously rejected my work.

What was the experience of being selected for Best American like? How did it happen? What was your reaction?

I'm a huge fan of Sherman Alexie, who is the guest editor for 2015, so the selection is doubly exciting for me. One of the ways I first fell in love with contemporary poetry was looking through the Best American Poetry anthologies when I was in high school, thinking, oh, I didn't know poetry could do that! It's a thrill to be included.



NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR



From our friends at:

SIGNINGS

Saturday, Nov. 7 - 1 p.m.
Round Table Discussion with Krista Gilbert: Reclaiming Home

Tuesday, Nov. 10 - 7 p.m.
Book Launch of Shann Ray's "American Copper" with Sherman Alexie

Saturday, Nov. 14 - 7 p.m.
Reading/Q&A/Signing with Leonard Pitts Jr.

Thursday, Nov. 19 - 7 p.m.
Reading and Presentation with Joanie Eppinga, Chuck Salina, and Susan Girtz

Saturday, Nov. 21 - 1 p.m.
Saturday Signing with Sue Eller

Saturday, Nov. 21 - 7 p.m.
Reading/Q&A/Signing with Chris Kelly, author of Italy Invades!

From our friends at:



SPOKANE POETRY SLAM

Monday, November 16, The Bartlett (228 W. Sprague Ave), 8 p.m.

\$5 cover charge. Sign-ups start at 7 p.m., doors close at 7:45. \$50 prize for winner.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

LINDA BIERDS SIGNING, READING, Q&A AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE, 7:30 P.M.

*Workshop at Riverpoint at 3 p.m.

EWU's Visiting Writers series brings Linda Bierds to Auntie's Books! Bierds will offer a reading, answer questions, and sign books.

Bierds is the author of nine books of poetry, and her work has appeared in the New Yorker since 1984. She has received several Pushcart Prizes, as well as grants and awards from the Seattle

Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Poetry Society of America, and the MacArthur Foundation, who praised her in 1998 as "a poet whose attention to historical detail and to narratives of lyric description sets her apart from the prevailing contemporary styles."

Co-presented by the Inland Northwest Center for Writers and Get Lit! Programs.



FRIDAYS, NOVEMBER 20

S.M. HULSE, READING, Q&A AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE, 7:30 P.M.

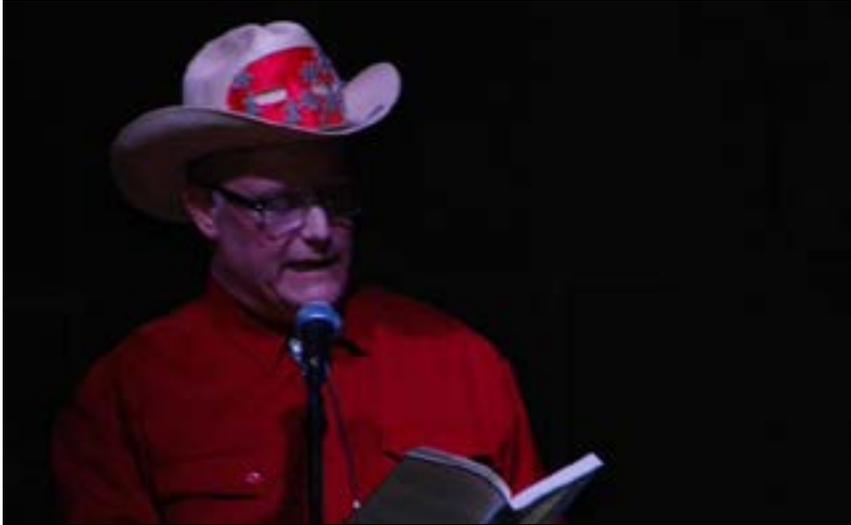
*Workshop at Riverpoint at 3 p.m.

EWU's Visiting Writers series brings author S.M. Hulse to Auntie's Books, where she will read, answer questions, and sign books!

S.M. Hulse is the author of the novel Black River, which was long-listed for the 2015 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and was an American Booksellers Association Indies Introduce title, an Indie Next title, and an Amazon Best Book of the Month. Hulse received her M.F.A. from the University of Oregon and was a fiction fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her stories have appeared in Salamander, Willow Springs, and Witness. A horsewoman and fiddler, Hulse has lived throughout the West.



VOICEOVER RECAP - 10/30



PROGRAM DIRECTOR GREG SPATZ



2ND YEAR FICTION STUDENT & VOICEOVER HOST JEFF HORNER



POETRY ALUMNA MEG CHARLES



2ND YEAR NONFICTION STUDENT ERIN LEIGH



1ST YEAR POETRY STUDENT JULIA ROX



2ND YEAR FICTION STUDENT
& VOICEOVER HOST ELIN HAWKINSON



2ND YEAR FICTION STUDENT DAVE STORMENT

RACHEL TOOR SELECTED AS NOTABLE IN BEST AMERICAN

Creative Nonfiction professor Rachel Toor had her essay, "Learning to Pitch" selected as Notable for Best American Sports Writing 2015. Bob Welch was an Oakland A when he won the Cy Young Award.

To read, click [HERE](#).



JONATHAN JOHNSON WORLD POETRY DOMINATION



INCW poetry professor Jonathan Johnson has poems in current issues of Poetry Northwest, Witness (online), Passages North and Prairie Schooner and in the forthcoming issue of Gettysburg Review.

POLLY BUCKINGHAM PUBLISHED IN FICTION AND POETRY

INCW alumna and Eastern Creative Writing faculty Polly Buckingham is making a splash all over the place in both poetry and fiction this month.

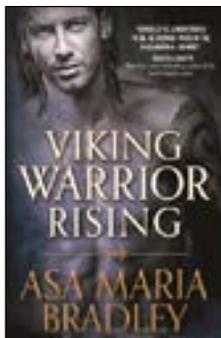
She has forthcoming publications in The Gettysburg Review, Hanging Loose, Witness, The Pembroke Review, and Mudfish!



ASA MARIA BRADLEY BOOK PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 3

2010 INCW graduate of the program Asa Maria Bradley celebrated the publication of her book, Viking Warrior Rising on November 3. November 4, she did a reading at Auntie's in Spokane to celebrate.

We're very proud of Asa!



CODY SMITH POEM IN BELLE RÊVE LITERARY JOURNAL

Current poetry first year Cody Smith had his poem, "Grandfather and Grandson Bank Fish at Archie" published in this month's Belle Reve Literary Journal.

The mag and poem go live November 17!



KATE PETERSON POEM NOMINATED FOR A PUSHCART

Poetry alumna Kate Peterson and all around wonderful person had a poem published in Hawaii Pacific Review.

She also has two forthcoming in Toad Suck Review and two forthcoming in Aethlon.

Kate also had a poem nominated for a Pushcart. She was nominated by Glassworks for her poem "Trapped bird in hospital corridor."

Kate Peterson continues to prove that one person can really do it all.



SETH MARLIN POEMS IN RIVERLIT



2013 alumnus Seth Marlin has his poems "snow" and "the astronaut's lullaby" in print in Issue 18 of RiverLit.

Also, his short story "Walled City" has just been accepted for publication in the January 2016 issue of Betwixt magazine!

CASEY PATRICK ALUMNA HAS POEMS PUBLISHED

Alumna Casey Patrick had poems published in the summer issues of Pleiades, Midwestern Gothic, and burndistrict. She also has poems coming out way down in Spring and Summer 2016 in The Adroit Journal, Grist Journal, and Tinderbox Poetry Journal, all of which involve Amelia Earhart or other famous female figures.



LAURA CITINO FICTION GRAD PUBLISHES NONFICTION

2013 fiction graduate Laura Citino had nonfiction published in Gigantic Sequins 6.2 this summer, and will have nonfiction coming out in Cream City Review later this year.



BRETT ORTLER PUBLISHED IN FATHERLY, POP SUGAR, SCARY MOMMY

Alumnus Brett Ortler had a few pieces picked up in Fatherly, Pop Sugar, and on Scary Mommy recently.





A Note from a NON-Internship

THE WRITER'S CENTER

Greetings from the EWU Spokane Writers' Center! As some of you may know, Lydia, Elin, and Dave are available Monday-Friday, 1-5pm to meet with students, faculty, and staff of the EWU community and talk about writing!

We work with any project that involves the written (or spoken) word. Stop on by to discuss your resumes, memoirs, short stories, sandboxes, craft essays, Facebook memes, roadside signs, letters to congress, grocery lists, or ransom notes. And if you have students, send them our way as well! We can help them brainstorm, outline, revise, and proofread their literacy narratives, argument essays, rhetorical analyses, literature reviews, and works cited. Save yourself a headache—let us break it to them that they don't have a thesis! It's our job.

Oh, and we have candy. And a couch. And a coffee maker. One of these days we'll actually get some coffee. See you there!

- Elin Hawkinson

DEAR SECOND YEAR

A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

I'm struggling with Impostor Syndrome. I am plagued by nagging thoughts like, "These people all know so much more than I do," "Why can't I say something that intelligent?" and "I somehow managed to trick people into thinking I could do this."

How do I get my brain to shut up? How do I regain the confidence I had as an undergrad?

- Will the Real Grad Student Please Stand Up

Dear Real Grad Student,

We're all impostors here. You've tricked people into thinking you're a writer? Great! That's more than I've done. Now trick journals into publishing you. Trick an employer into hiring you.

The MFA program may be a small pond with a lot of big fish, but you're a bigger fish than you think. You belong here, with all the other impostors. The thing that makes us writers is the fact that we write. There will always be better writers than you, and there will always be worse writers than you. Be glad there are people here who might know something you don't. Learn from them. But realize, almost everything they say in workshop is something they've heard before, from another writer. And now they're eager to share what they've learned.

So when someone makes a smart comment, focus on what was said rather than who said it. And remember that feeling like an impostor shows humility and an eagerness to learn.

We never think our writing is good enough, which is why we work to make it better.

Every month, a first year student will submit an anonymous question to be answered by our equally anonymous second year columnist. To submit questions, email dbuynak@gmail.com before the 20th of each month.



CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

- **Indiana Review**
Deadline: Not specified.
NOW IN ITS 38th year of publication, Indiana Review is a biannual and nonprofit literary magazine dedicated to showcasing the talents of emerging and established writers. Our mission is to offer the highest quality writing within a wide aesthetic. For full submission guidelines, please visit our website at www.indianareview.org.
- **SOUNDLINGS REVIEW**
Deadline: December 1.
SOUNDLINGS REVIEW now pays contributors. We offer \$25 for each piece of **prose** and \$10 for each **poem**.
Current reading period: September 1–December 1.
Submit online via Submittable for a \$3 fee. Soundings is a publication of the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. For writer's guidelines visit www.nila.edu/soundings.
- **BELLINGHAM Review**
Deadline: December 1.
BELLINGHAM Review welcomes its new editor in chief, S. Paola Antonetta, and announces a call for general submissions in **poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction**.
Online submissions only via Submittable; \$3 reading fee. For those readers who subscribe to the journal

between September and December, we will read submissions through June 1. Contributors receive a complimentary copy and 2 gift subscriptions. Complete guidelines at bhreview.org.

- **PINYON**
Deadline: December 1.
PINYON invites high-quality submissions of **poetry** and **short fiction** from emerging and established writers. Send short bio, including e-mail address, and SASE to Pinyon, Department of Languages, Literature and Mass Communication, Colorado Mesa University, 1100 North Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122 or, to submit electronically, check our website at thepinyon.wordpress.com.
- **BRYANT LITERARY REVIEW**
Deadline: December 1.
BRYANT LITERARY REVIEW, a journal of **poetry and fiction**, seeks quality submissions for its May 2016 issue. Work may be of any style or subject matter. See poetry samples at www.bryantliteraryreview.org. Send submission with cover letter, brief bio, and SASE to: Bryant Literary Review, Faculty Suite F, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI 02917.
- **CRAB CREEK REVIEW**
Deadline: December 15.
CRAB CREEK REVIEW seeks

submissions of **poetry, short fiction, and short creative nonfiction**. Looking for originality, risk-taking, and consummate craftsmanship in all genres. Simultaneous submissions welcome. No fee. Guidelines at <http://crabcreekreview.org/submissions.html>.

COMPETITIONS

- **Formalist, Howard Nemerov Sonnet Award**
Deadline: November 15
Entry Fee: \$3
Website: <http://theformalist.evansville.edu/contest.html>
A prize of \$1,000 and publication in Measure: A Review of Formal Poetry is given annually for a **sonnet**. Gail White will judge. Submit a sonnet with a \$3 entry fee by November 15. Send an SASE or visit the website for complete guidelines.
Formalist, Howard Nemerov Sonnet Award, 21 Osborne Terrace, Wayne, NJ 07470.
- **Narrative 30 Below Contest**
Deadline: November 15, 2015
Entry Fee: \$23
Website: <http://www.narrativemagazine.com>
A prize of \$1,500 and publication in Narrative is given annually for a **poem, a short story, an essay**, or an excerpt from a work of fiction or creative nonfiction by a writer under the age

of 30. The editors will judge. Using the online submission system, submit up to five poems or 15,000 words of prose with a \$23 entry fee between September 15 and November 15. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Narrative, 30 Below Contest, 2443 Fillmore Street #214, San Francisco, CA 94115. Tom Jenks, Editor.

- **BRIAR CLIFF REVIEW Poetry, Fiction, and Creative Nonfiction Contest**

Deadline: November 30. \$1,000 and publication for best unpublished **poem, story, and creative nonfiction essay**. Submit 1 story, 1 essay, or 3 poems with \$20. All entrants receive magazine. No manuscripts returned. Name/address on cover sheet only. Open to all writers. Submit online or via snail mail. SASE required. Briar Cliff Review Contest, 3303 Rebecca St., Sioux City, IA 51104. Website: www.bcreview.org.

- **Tartt First Fiction Award, Livingston Press**

DEADLINE: December 31, 2015
Authors who have not published a story collection are eligible. One thousand dollars award, plus publication for winner. Competitive, so we recommend that most of your collection has been previously

taken by magazines. Open to any style of **fiction**. Send collection to Livingston Press, Station 22, The University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL 35470. Twenty-dollar entry fee. We typically announce winner in June. Keep a copy, as we cannot return any entries. www.livingstonpress.uwa.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Andrews Forest Writers' Residency**

Deadline: December 1
Website: springcreek.oregonstate.edu
E-mail address: spring.creek@oregonstate.edu
The H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest offers one- to two-week residencies to **poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers** in March, April, and May in the Oregon Cascades, 40 miles east of Eugene. The residency is open to writers whose work "reflects a keen awareness of the natural world." Residents are provided with a private apartment, which includes kitchen facilities, access to the forest research site, and a \$250 stipend. Submit three copies of up to 10 pages of poetry or 15 pages of prose, a one-page project description, and a curriculum vitae by December 1. There is no application fee. Visit the website for an application and complete

guidelines.

Andrews Forest Writers' Residency, Oregon State University, Spring Creek Project, School of History, Religion, and Philosophy, 322 Milam Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331. Carly Lettero, Program Director.

- **Collaborative Retreat at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek**

Deadline: December 1
The Cabin at Shotpouch Creek offers two-week residencies to **pairs of poets, fiction writers, or creative nonfiction writers** from March 5 to March 18, 2016, and March 26 to April 8, 2016, in the Oregon Coast Range. The residency is open to writers who wish to pursue a collaborative project, and whose work takes inspiration from the natural world. Residents are provided with lodging in a two-bedroom cabin and a \$250 stipend each. Submit three copies of 8 to 10 pages of poetry or 10 to 20 pages of prose, a one-page project description, and a curriculum vitae by December 1. There is no application fee. Visit the website for an application and complete guidelines.
Collaborative Retreat at the Cabin at Shotpouch Creek, Oregon State University, Spring Creek Project, School of History, Religion, and Philosophy, 322 Milam Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.

OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

MISCELLANEOUS (CONTINUED)

- **Emerging Poets Fellowship Program at Poets House**

Type: Residency
Location: New York, New York
Application Deadline: December 1, 2015
Website: www.poetshouse.org/programs-and-events/workshops-classes-residencies/emerging-poets-residency
Poets House offers 10 fellowships from March to June 2016, to **poets** living in New York City. The twelve-week fellowship program includes weekly workshops, mentoring sessions, and free access to guest speaker appearances and other events at Poets House, located in lower Manhattan's Battery Park City neighborhood. Fellows must participate in one public reading. Poets enrolled in a degree-granting program are not eligible. Stipends for childcare and transportation

are available. Submit five pages of poetry, a résumé, a personal statement, a statement of need, and contact information for two references by December 1. There is no application fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

- **Dickinson House Residency, Belgium**

Financial aid deadline: December 15.
Website: dickinsonhouse.be/
possibility
Dickinson House offers residencies from one to six weeks to **poets, fiction writers, and nonfiction writers** at the Dickinson House in East Flanders, Belgium, about 50 miles west of Brussels. Residencies of up to the three months are occasionally available. The cost of the residency is €560 (approximately \$700 USD) each week, which includes full room and board. To apply, submit via email a writing sample of 5 to 10 pages and a statement of

purpose. There is no entry fee; applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Visit the website for more information.

- **Baltic Writing Residency in Latvia**

Deadline: December 15
Location: Riga, Latvia
Website: www.balticresidency.com
The Baltic Writing Residency in Latvia offers a monthlong summer residency to a **poet, fiction writer, or creative nonfiction writer** at the Hotel Bergs in Riga, Latvia. The resident is provided with private lodging and a \$1,000 stipend. Travel expenses are not included. Using the online submission system, submit up to 10 pages of poetry or 20 pages of prose, a curriculum vitae including a list of published work, and contact information for two references with a \$25 application fee by December 15. E-mail or visit the website for complete guidelines.



MISS BEING IN THE LOOP BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS? KEEP UP WITH THE INLAND NORTHWEST CENTER FOR WRITERS ON THE INTERNET.

Click us! We're interactive!

