

# VIRGINIA G. PIPER CENTER for CREATIVE WRITING

## Subplot

The Newsletter of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at ASU September 2008

### September 3

#### Graduate Reading Series

Mill's End Cafe, 310 S. Mill, Tempe, AZ

First of weekly readings that start around 8:30 pm every Wednesday through November. Contact **Arijit Sen** at [asen2@asu.edu](mailto:asen2@asu.edu) for more information, or to sign up and read!

The September reading schedule (subject to change):

9/3: Poetry **Allyson Bogges**, Fiction: **Christian Perticone**

9/10: Poetry **Ryan Holden**, Fiction **Paul Ocampo**

9/17: Poetry **Kat Winter**, Fiction **Tessa Stevens**

9/24: Poetry **Patrick Gabbard**, Fiction **Justin Sikes**

### September 10

#### The Poet & The Printer

LL Room 316, 3:15 pm

A presentation by poet and professor **Bettie Anne Doebler** and book artist and Professor Emeritus **Gene Valentine**. Light refreshments will be served.

### September 10

Reading and Booksigning with novelist **Chang-rae Lee**

Burton Barr Library, Phoenix, AZ, 7:30 pm

Free and open to the public.

### September 11

Public Craft Q&A with novelist **Chang-rae Lee**

Piper Writers House, 11 am



### September 27

Reading and Booksigning with novelist **Jane Smiley**

Tempe Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm

Free and open to the public.

### September 28

MFA Q&A with novelist **Jane Smiley**

Piper Writers House, 10 am

RSVP to [elizabyth.hiscox@asu.edu](mailto:elizabyth.hiscox@asu.edu) by Sept. 12.

### October 2

Public Craft Q&A with poets **William Pitt Root** and

**Pamela Uschuk**

Piper Writers House, 12 pm

Reading and Booksigning with poets **William Pitt Root** and **Pamela Uschuk**

Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ, 7:30 pm

Free and open to the public.

### Welcome, and Welcome Back!

#### New Faces at the Piper Center

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing recently appointed **Sean Nevin** as its assistant director and **Elizabyth Hiscox** as program coordinator. **T.R. Hummer**, the Center's director of domestic initiatives and the director of the Creative Writing Program at ASU, made the announcement.

Nevin replaces **Charles Jensen**, who was named director of The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Md. in July. Jensen spent the past five years at the Piper Center for Creative Writing, most recently as assistant director.

Nevin will assist Hummer with the everyday management of the Piper Center and serve as director of the annual *Desert Nights, Rising Stars* Writers Conference. A familiar face to the ASU creative writing community, Nevin also serves as director of ASU's Young Writer's Program, and is co-editor of *22 Across: a Review of Young Writers*. He holds a M.A. from Queens (N.Y.) College and is a 2002 graduate of the creative writing MFA program at ASU.

Hiscox is also a product of the creative writing MFA program at ASU and previously worked at the Piper Center as a graduate assistant. Her primary duties will include the administration of the Piper Writer's Studio, the Piper Friends Program and the Piper Online Book Club. She will also assist Nevin with the *Desert Nights, Rising Stars* Writers Conference.



#### Turchi Joins Creative Writing Faculty

Arizona State University is proud to introduce award-winning fiction writer Peter Turchi as the newest member of its MFA in Creative Writing faculty. You can find out more about Peter by visiting his website: [www.peterturchi.com](http://www.peterturchi.com)



We would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new creative writing MFAs. See the back page of *Subplot* for background on the new additions to the program!

### Deadlines

#### Early September

Anyone interested in writing for *Marginalia*, contact managing editor **Beth Staples** at [Beth.Staples@asu.edu](mailto:Beth.Staples@asu.edu) or 480-965-1337 as soon as possible.

### September 1

Piper Online Book Club presents:

**Natasha Trethewey's *Native Guard***

The Piper Online Book Club selection for September is the 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Native Guard*. Discussion begins Sept. 5.

Visit [www.asu.edu/piper/bookclub](http://www.asu.edu/piper/bookclub) to join the book club.

### September 12

Reserve your spot in the MFA Q&A session with novelist **Jane Smiley**. RSVP to [elizabyth.hiscox@asu.edu](mailto:elizabyth.hiscox@asu.edu).

### MFA News and Notes

Over the summer, poet **Brian Diamond** had three poems accepted for publication: "After Reading Lines of Sappho I Return to the Problem of Gravity," "Chaotic Ination Theory," and "D". His work will be appearing in *Redactions, Flashquake* and *Fence*...a publisher recently expressed interest in **Marq Wilson's** original interview with poet, novelist, and performance artist Sapphire. The interview, which is part of a larger manuscript including essays about Sapphire's work, discusses the artist's response to a symposium held in her honor at ASU last February, her highly acclaimed yet highly controversial poetry, and her novel *Push*, investigating the novel's claim as a modern day slave narrative.



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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

*Subplot* is a publication of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing designed to serve the needs of the creative writing MFA community. If you have information or ideas for what you think should be included in this newsletter, email comments and information to: [marq.wilson@asu.edu](mailto:marq.wilson@asu.edu).

# VIRGINIA G. PIPER CENTER for CREATIVE WRITING

## Let's Welcome Our New Creative Writing MFAs!

### FICTION

#### Ben Blickle

"Rules are made to be broken, especially when it comes to grammar." Ben is from Akron, Ohio, then Chicago, then New York City.

#### Berkley Carnine

A mantra? None of mine seem too appropriate for a journal or whatever this is, but I do things the hard way, often unintentionally, perhaps I am preparing for some great test or feat, for the apocalypse, for this, who knows. But I am preparing. Berkley grew up in Eugene Oregon and has lived in Berkeley off and on for years, where people came up with a wide variety of nicknames to differentiate her from the town and school. Bhark! Bezerkley, Shmerkley, Shmerkls, Berko. Her name is also hard to say in other languages giving her; Curly, Binda, Berley, and so forth.

#### Christian Perticone

By the words of Saul Bellow, as written in "Herzog"... "that he had not lived the life of an ordinary American. No, his peculiarities had governed him from the start. Did he see any great value of social distinction in this? Well, he had to endure these peculiarities, so there was no reason why he shouldn't make use of them, a little."

#### Justin Sikes

Quoted Virginia Woolf's "To the Lighthouse", "The smallest stone will outlast Shakespeare".

**Paul Ocampo's** personal mantra comes from Samuel Beckett: "Fail again. Fail better." Paul was born in Cavite, Philippines, and immigrated to the U.S. at age 11. He earned a B.A. in English Literature at the University of California, Berkeley and earned a M.A. in Asian American Studies at UCLA. He taught English in Seoul, South Korea and worked for the Public Library of Science in San Francisco as the editorial assistant for the journals *PLoS Biology* and *PLoS Medicine*. He also assisted Maxine Hong Kingston in editing the anthology *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, which includes his short story "Buttery."

#### Tessa Stevens

"I try and have a lot of heroes, seek out and stay in the presence of greatness—in any form."

### POETRY

#### Katherine Berta

Patrick joins the MFA program as a poet.

#### Allyson Boggess

From the words of John Rybicki's "Becoming": "...God above, / I can't go on, / and thank you for this day." Allyson is originally from Rochester, NY but is most recently from Boston.

#### Chris Emery

Chris joins the MFA program as a poet.

#### Patrick Gabbard

Patrick joins the MFA program as a poet.

#### Ryan Holden

His academic mantra "Learn as if you're going to live forever," is second only to his folksy mantra: "Am I having fun? Yes. Are the folks around me having fun? Yes. Then, we're good to go."

#### Kat Winter

"You may as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb." Kat hails from a place near Glen Ellen in Northern California.

### PLAYWRIGHTS

#### Asher Wyndham

The Writer's Q-Tip: Sometimes wax builds up in the ears. Take the Q-Tip (the real one and the metaphorical one) to clean out the ears so you can hear well the nuances of the English language.

The Big Question for the Writer: "So What?" Why is what you're writing important to you? What does it say about you—who you were, who you are, and who you want to become?

What does it say about your understanding of the world? Your vision of life? Does your writing advance any examination of yourself? Isn't the journey of the writer essentially the writing of an autobiography?

#### Christian Krauspe

Christian joins the MFA program as a playwright.