



# Department of English Newsletter

2014-2015

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## Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the first ever APU English Department Newsletter. We hope it will help you connect with what's going on in the department. You'll find announcements about our programs, notices about scholars and creative writers who have visited, updates on faculty achievements and publications, and news on what our graduates are doing now. If you have something you want to share with us to include in future newsletters, we'd love to hear from you.

**David Esselstrom**, Chair, Department of English

Volume 1



## Letter from the Dean

# Department of English launches new M.A. program in Fall 2015

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Department of English

have launched a new M.A. in English program. This program represents a significant extension of the CLAS mission to cultivate programs of excellence, foster a culture of scholarship, and prepare students for advanced study, civic engagement, vocational success, and a life well lived.

This M.A. program offers professional preparation and personal enrichment to graduate students seeking advanced knowledge in the field of literary studies, encompassing literature, composition, cultural and film studies, and creative and professional writing. It encourages an active conversation between Christianity and literature, preparing scholars, writers,

and teachers for cultural engagement from a Christian perspective.

Professor Mark Eaton (Ph.D., Boston University) will lead our new Master's program as the Director of Graduate Studies. Professor Eaton joined the faculty at Azusa Pacific University in 2000 as an Assistant Professor and was quickly promoted to Associate Professor in 2003 and Professor in 2006. In addition, he has served as the Director of the Center for Research on Ethics & Values (CREV) and he was the recipient of the Beverly Hardcastle Stanford Fellowship for 2014-2015 and a Templeton Religion Fund grant recipient for 2015-2016.

This new M.A. in English program is an exciting new initiative for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Jennifer Walsh**, Dean

# Faculty Honors

**Patricia Andujo** has been elected to a three-year term (2015-2018) as Western Regional Representative of the Conference on Christianity and Literature.

**Gail Bouslough** received the Outstanding Teacher Award for adjunct faculty by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at a ceremony in Wynn amphitheater on April 29, 2015.

**Mark Eaton** has received a \$15,000 grant from the Templeton Religion Trust to participate in the Oxford Seminars on Science and Religion titled Bridging the Two Cultures of Science and the Humanities for 2015–2016, where he will be working on a new research project, “American Literary Supernaturalism 1875-1925.”

**Emily Griesinger** has been elected to a four-year term (2015-2019) on the national board of the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and Arts at Valparaiso University.

Former Chair and Professor Emeritus **James L. Hedges** received the Roy Swanstrom Distinguished Centurion Award from his alma mater Seattle Pacific University in 2015. He is pictured with SPU President Daniel J. Martin.

**Matthew J. Smith** was a Francis Bacon Foundation Fellow in Renaissance England at the Huntington Library in 2015, where he completed a book titled *Stage, Cathedral, Wagon, Street: The Grounds of Belief in Renaissance Performance*. He is also the Principal Investigator for a research project titled Religion without Shakespeare: Staging Faith on the Early Modern Non-Shakespearean Stage, for which he received a planning grant of \$3000 from the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities.



# Faculty Honors

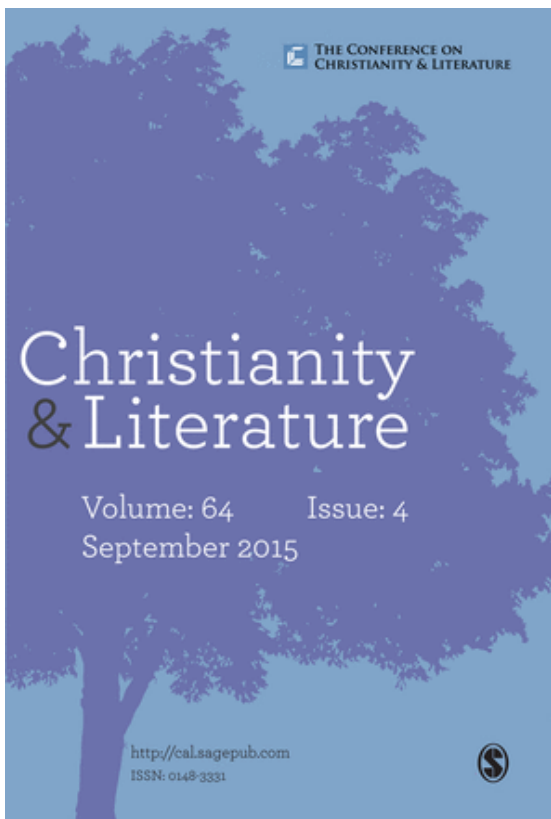


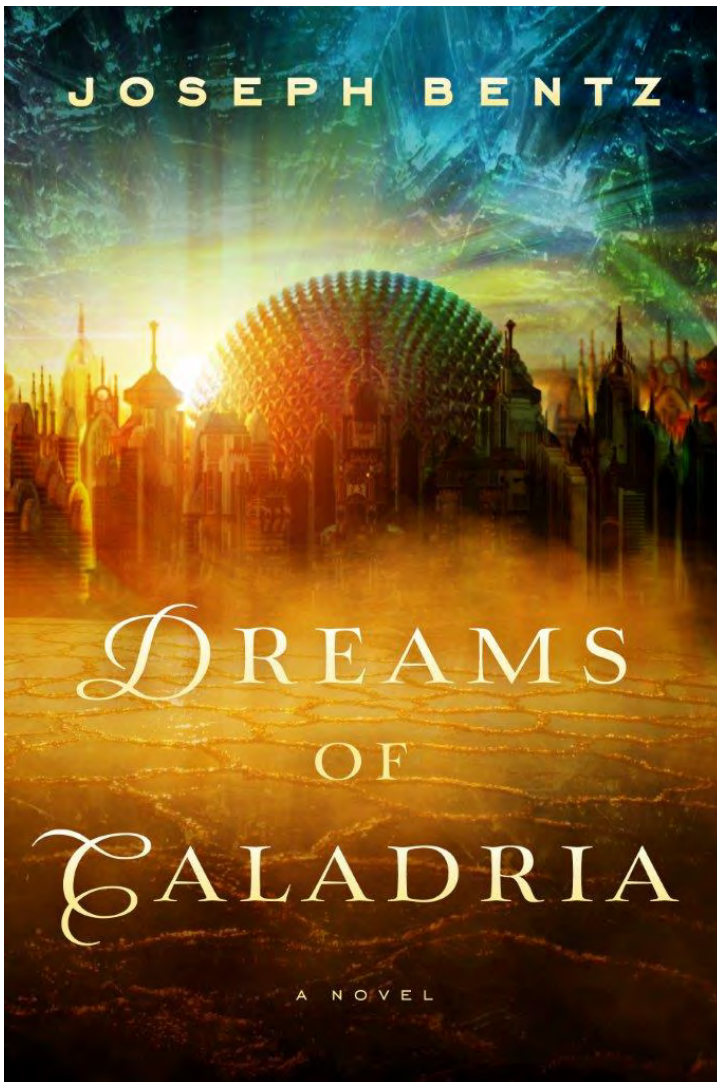
**Mark Eaton** was appointed Editor of *Christianity and Literature* in July 2015, while **Matthew J. Smith** and **Caleb D. Spencer** are also appointed as Associate Editors. With these appointments, the journal's editorial office moves from Pepperdine University to Azusa Pacific University. Two new M.A. in English students, **Sara Champlain** and **Austin Sill**, will serve as Editorial Assistants.

Published quarterly by the Conference on Christianity and Literature and SAGE Journals, *Christianity and Literature* is a member of CELJ, the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. In the past twenty-five years, under the leadership of, first, Robert Snyder and, then, Paul Contino and Maire Mullins, it has won awards for its scholarly excellence. In the summer of 2015, Mark Eaton began his first term as Editor. Each issue of the journal contains peer-reviewed scholarly articles, book reviews, poetry, and news and announcements.

Mission Statement: *Christianity and Literature* is devoted to the scholarly exploration of how literature engages Christian thought, experience, and practice. The journal presupposes no particular theological orientation but respects an orthodox understanding of Christianity as a historically defined faith. Contributions appropriate for submission should demonstrate a keen awareness of the author's own critical assumptions in addressing significant issues of literary history, interpretation, and theory. We do not publish self-enclosed close readings but, rather, ask that essays bring the Christian content and/or context of literature to bear on current critical discussions of texts in culture, history, religion, and theory.

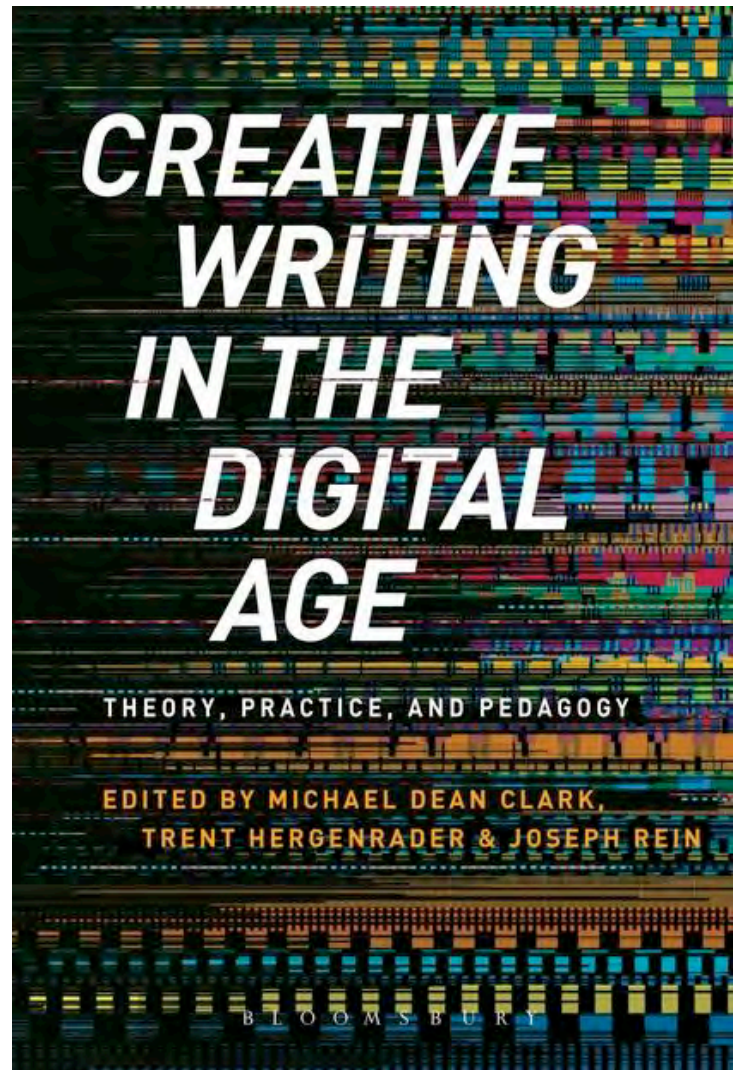
Website: <http://www.christianityandliterature.org/>





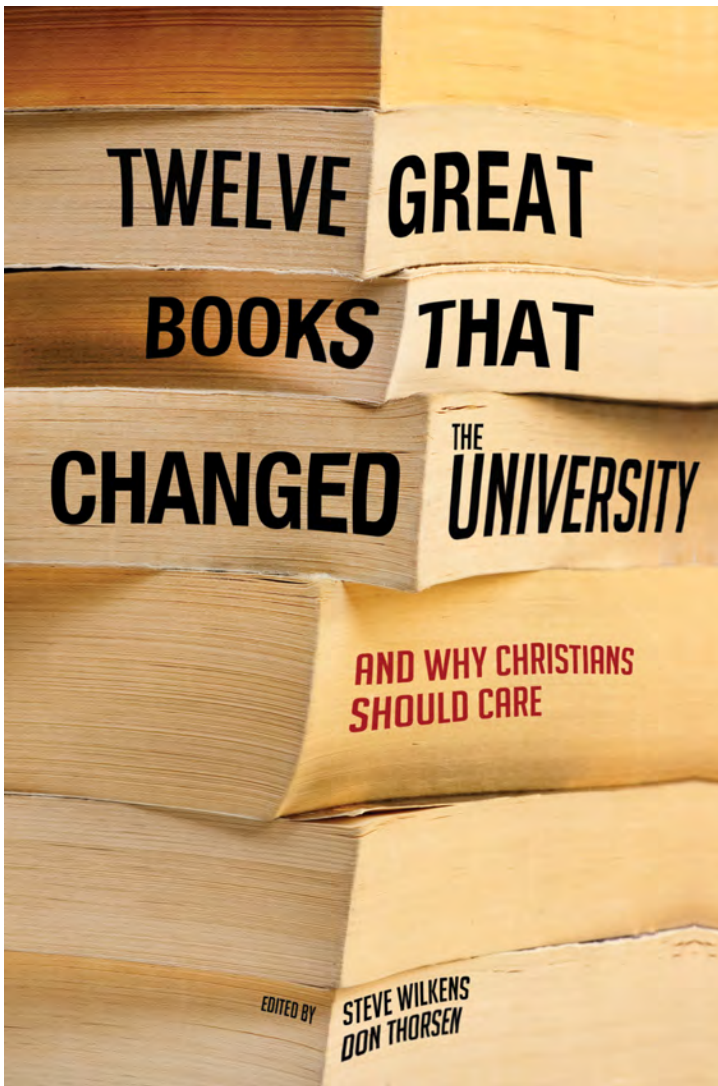
**Joseph Bentz** published a fantasy novel, *Dreams of Caladria* (Enclave Publishing), in March 2015. The book has an unusual story behind it. In 1995, his first novel *Song of Fire* was published. Now, the novel is being republished by a different publisher with a new title, a new cover, and a new ending (the one he originally wanted).

**Sarah Adams** published her essay "A Fitter Subject for Study" in *The Big Bad II: An Anthology of Evil*, eds. John G. Hartness and Emily Lavin Leverett (Memphis, TN: Dark Oak Press, 2015).



**Michael Dean Clark** is co-editor along with Trent Hergenrader and Joseph Rein of a book, *Creative Writing in the Digital Age: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy* (Bloomsbury, 2015), which explores the vast array of opportunities that technology provides the Creative Writing teacher, ranging from effective online workshop models to methods that blur the boundaries of genre. The book is intended as a resource for writing teachers at a time when digital technologies are transforming the field.

**Gail Bouslough** published an essay, "Playing with Parody in Three Picture Book Favorites," in *The Dragon Lode* 32.2 (Spring 2014): 56-64.

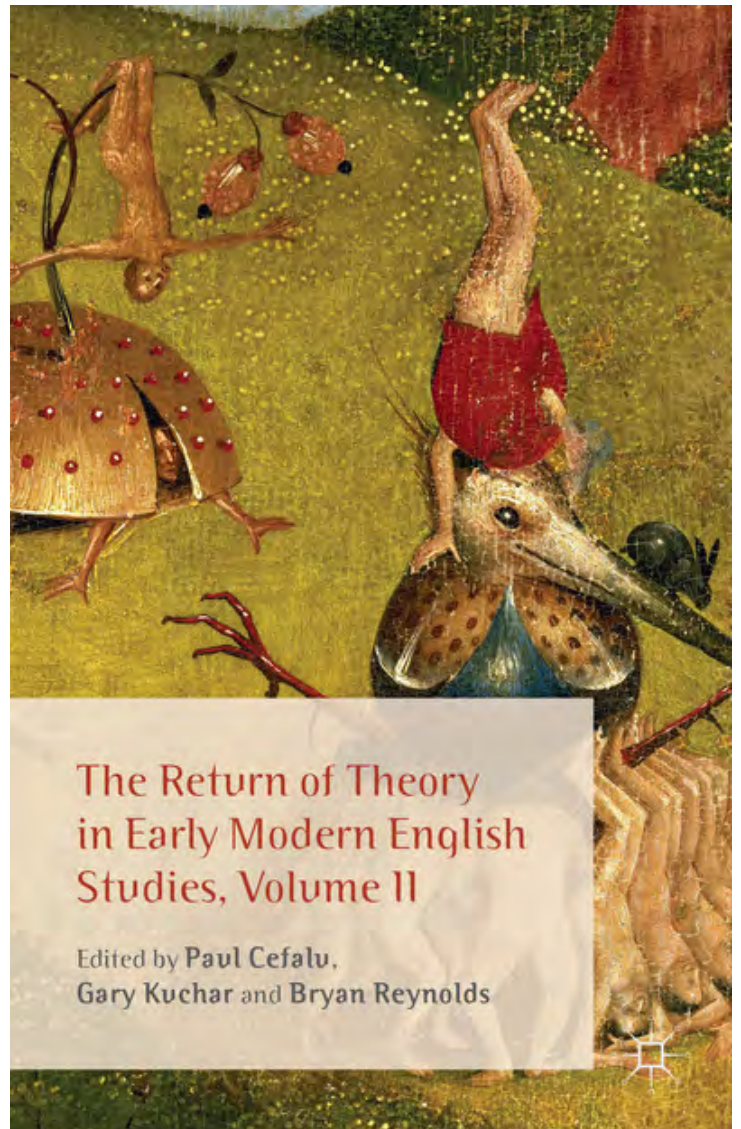


**David D. Esselstrom** published a chapter on "William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*" in *Twelve Great Books That Changed the University and Why Christians Should Care*, eds. Steve Wilkens and Don Thorsen (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2014).

**Andrea Ivanov-Craig** also published "Cervantes, *Don Quixote*" in the same book, *Twelve Great Books That Changed the University and Why Christians Should Care*, eds. Steve Wilkens and Don Thorsen (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2014).

**Eric Drewry** published a book: *Approaching English Grammar Analytically* (Champaign, IL: Common Ground Publishing, 2014).

**Mark Eaton** published "Classical Hollywood (1928-1946)" in *Screenwriting: Behind the Silver Screen*, edited by Andrew Horton and Julian Hoxter (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2014), pp. 35-54.



**Matthew J. Smith** published a chapter titled "The Sense of Confession in *Hamlet*," in *The Return of Theory in Early Modern English Studies, Volume 2*, edited by Paul Cefalu, Gary Kuchar, and Bryan Reynolds (New York: Palgrave, 2014), pp. 165-84. He also published an article, "The Experience of Ceremony in *Henry V*" in the journal *SEL: Studies in English Literature* 52.2 (May 2014), pp. 401-21.

**Caleb D. Spencer** published an essay "Working Knowledge: Faith, Vocation, and the Evidence of Things Unseen" in *Faithful is Successful: Notes to the Driven Pilgrim*, edited by David Lewis and Nathan Grills (Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2014), pp. 109-20.



APU at MLA: **Mark Eaton, Emily Griesinger, Matthew Smith, and Patricia Andujo** attended the Conference on Christianity and Literature luncheon at COAST restaurant in Vancouver, BC during the Modern Language Association convention held from January 8-11, 2015.

**Sarah Adams** organized a session "Leaning In and Ministry: Are they Compatible in a CCCU School?" at the Western Region Conference on Christianity and Literature at Seattle University in May 2015. She also organized a session "Happier in Battle than at a Bridal: *Hervarasaga* and *The Lord of the Rings*" at the Medieval Association of the Pacific conference held at the University of Nevada Reno in April 2015.

**Patricia Andujo** presented a paper titled "Toni Morrison's *Beloved*: the Spiritual (In) effectiveness of the Film and Novel" at the Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature at Seattle University in May 2015.

**Joseph Bentz** was a faculty member at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference in March 2015, where he helped a group of six authors get books ready for publication. He also taught a workshop called "Writing Life: Strategies for Writers with No Time to Write."

**Gail Bouslough, Nancy Brashear, and Kristen Sipper-Denlinger** were part of a featured panel presentation titled *Read, laugh, live: Humor in children's picture books* at the annual meeting of the Charlotte Huck Children's Literature Festival in Redlands, CA in February 2015.



Professor Emeritus **Ralph Carlson** presented on 18 species of birds photographed on the APU campus as part of the session "Garden Walks: What Else is in the Garden, and Do We See Ourselves as Stewards of the Planet/Garden?" at Common Day of Learning in February 2015.

**Mark Eaton** was a respondent for a session titled "Faith and Twenty-first Century Fiction" at the Modern Language Association convention in Vancouver, BC in January 2015. He was also a presenter on a panel and moderated a session at the conference "The Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination" held at the University of Southern California on February 19-21, 2015.

**Carole J. Lambert** led a post-show discussion following a performance of Diane Samuels' play *Kindertransport* in November 2014 with Helen Freeman, Auschwitz survivor and author; Michelle Gold, daughter of a *Kindertransport* survivor; and Gabriella Karin, a Holocaust survivor, among several other participants.

**Katie Manning** published a poem "Parturition," among other poems, in 2014-2015. She has accepted a position at her alma mater, Point Loma Nazarene University. We wish her well.

# News and Events



**Brett Foster** (Wheaton College) gave the James L. Hedges Distinguished Reading on February 24, 2015, joining a list of luminaries that includes Billy Collins and Robert Pinsky. A former Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, Foster has an M.A. from Boston University and a Ph.D. from Yale University. His first collection of poetry, *The Garbage Eater* (2011), was a finalist for a Drake University Emerging Writer Award and was selected for the Debut Poets feature in *Poets & Writers* magazine. He is also the author of the chapbook *Fall Run Road* (2011). He teaches in the English Department at Wheaton College.

With funds from a Faculty Research Grant, **Andrea Ivanov-Craig** made a research trip to the Harry Ransom Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin in 2014 to look at Andre Dubus' letters for her current book project, *Moving Towards Redemption: Spiritual Comedy and Disability in the Late Writings of Andre Dubus (1936-1999)*. She also presented a paper at the American Literature Association Symposium "God and the American Writer" in San Antonio, Texas in February 2015. Her paper was "God and the (dis)abled American Writer: Andre Dubus' Disability Aesthetic."



**Diana Pavlac Glycer** gave a plenary address titled "C.S. Lewis at the Table with Dante and Zeus: Pushing (Against) the Limits of Intellectual Hospitality" at the C.S. Lewis Summer Institute at University Church of Saint Mary at the University of Oxford in July 2014 as part of Oxbridge 2014, where she also led a seminar on "Dante and the Virtues." She was also a keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Conference of the C.S. Lewis and Inklings Society at Grove City College on March 26-28, 2015. Dr. Glycer gave two keynote addresses, titled "Dryads, Dyads, and the Muse" and "Bandersnatch: The Creative Genius of Lewis, Tolkien, and the Inklings."

**Matthew J. Smith** was a moderator for the conference "Touching Shakespeare: Proximity, Precarity, and Resilience in Renaissance Drama and Modern Life" at UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, February 13-14, 2015. He also gave a lecture "To the Tune of Tragedy: A Cautionary Tale of Shakespeare in Song and Dance," at the symposium on *Shakespeare Reimagined: Interpretations Across the Arts* held at Chapman University in April 2015.

**Caleb D. Spencer** presented a paper titled "Narrating Nonreligion: Experience, Evidence, Mind" at the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network's International conference at Pitzer College in November 2014. He also presented a paper titled "Secular messiahs: Zizek's *Children of Men* and *The Lego Movie*" at the Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture at Baylor University in Waco, TX in October 2014. Finally, Spencer wrote an article, "Wasting July: An Encomium to the Tour de France," which appeared in *Books & Culture* in July 2014.



**Victoria Bolf** (B.A. 2007) ran the 2014 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 12, 2014. She is currently in the Ph.D. program at Loyola University Chicago, where she is Assistant Director of the Loyola University Chicago Writing Center.

**William Cook** (B.A. 2013) completed an M.A. in TESOL at APU in December 2014. He is currently a graduate tutor in the Writing Center at APU. He also started running.

**Charles L. Crowley** (B.A. 2015) published a short story "I Dreamt of(,) an Elephant (is) Dreaming of Me" in *The Los Angeles Review of Los Angeles*, Issue Number 9 (June 2015): 2-4.

**Marie (Hafeman) Curran** (B.A. 2005) is an M.F.A. candidate in fiction at Northern Michigan University. Her short story "Life Under the Sex Tree" was published in *Rind Literary Magazine* 4 (September 2013).

**Arielle Dreher** (B.A. 2014) got an M.S. in Journalism at Columbia University in May 2015. She went to India as part of a seminar on "Covering Religion."

**Nicole Flewelling** (B.A. 2012) received an M.A. in Digital Publishing at Oxford Brookes University in June 2015. She was an Editorial Intern at Oxford University Press and worked as a Journals Production Assistant for Taylor & Francis Group.

**David A. Hedges** (B.A. 1989) received a Nicholl Fellowship from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his screenplay *Legion*, co-written with Frank DeJohn, one of five chosen from 7,251 screenplays.

**Chelsea Johnson** (B.A. 2013) is in the Inland Northwest Center for Writers MFA Program at Eastern Washington University, where she is a Managing Editor for *Willow Springs* magazine.

**Nathan Kilpatrick** (B.A. 2006) received a Ph.D. in Religion and Literature from Baylor University in May 2014, where he was a Lilly Graduate Fellow. He is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

**Jason Lotz** (B.A. 2004) received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Purdue University in August 2014, where he received the Thomas Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

**Alison Martin** (B.A. 2015) is entering the M.A. in English program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, where she also received a Teaching Assistantship.



**Mallory Ortberg** (B.A. 2009) published a book titled *Texts from Jane Eyre: And Other Conversations with Your Favorite Literary Characters* (Henry Holt) in November 2014. Less than a month later, it was on the *New York Times* Bestseller List for Culture. Not bad for a first book. She has written for *Gawker*, *New York Magazine*, *The Hairpin*, and *The Atlantic*.

**Rachel Pietka** (B.A. 2006) received her Ph.D. in English from Baylor University in May 2015. She was a Lilly Graduate Fellow from 2010-2013.

**Kiersti Plog** (B.A. 2009) received a Genesis Award from the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) in 2013 for her novel *Beneath a Turquoise Sky*.

**Chad Richard** (B.A. 2012) went to Brazil in 2014 on a Fulbright. He is currently a graduate tutor in the Writing Center.

**Emily Suess** (B.A. 2012) is an M.A. candidate in Writing and Literature at Northern Michigan University, where she is a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

**Kathryn Ross** (B.A. 2015) has a poem "Odes and Idle Time" in the online journal *here/there: poetry*, Issue 5 (June 2015).

**Andrew Soria** (B.A. 2014) received a Lilly Graduate Fellowship in 2014 and began a Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California in Fall 2014.

**Alan Bennett Stauffer** (B.A. 2013) got an M.A. in English at James Madison University in May 2015. He is starting the Ph.D. program in English at the University of California, San Diego this fall.

**Kaila Ward** (B.A. 2012) is an Associate Producer for *Dateline* (NBC) in Universal City, CA.

**Emeli Warren** (B.A. 2012) completed an M.A. in Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College in May 2014.

**Emily Womelsduff** (B.A., 2012) published a novel titled *Velvet* under a pen name, Temple West, in 2015. Her short story "Ghost Pain" was published in *Dappled Things* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Please email [meaton@apu.edu](mailto:meaton@apu.edu) with news for future newsletters.

# Announcements

Please join us for  
**APU Writer's Read**  
November 12, 2015  
Starting at 7:30pm  
Wilden Lecture Hall  
Info: ckern@apu.edu

We are pleased to announce that **Gavin Jones (Stanford University)** will give the annual **James L. Hedges Distinguished Lecture** titled "**Recuperating Steinbeck**" on November 5, 2015, 5-6 pm in Upper Turner Campus Center. Reception from 4-5 pm in the Centennial Courtyard (by the Trolley Stop)



If you would like to begin the M.A. in English program in Spring 2016, the priority deadline to apply is October 15, 2015 (final deadline December 4, 2015). Current APU undergraduate students may want to consider applying for the 5<sup>th</sup> year option, or 4 + 1 M.A. program, which allows you to complete the master's degree in one additional academic year beyond the traditional four-year undergraduate experience. To begin in Fall 2016, the priority deadline is March 15, 2016 (final deadline June 15, 2016). Website: [www.apu.edu/clas/english/masters](http://www.apu.edu/clas/english/masters)

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