University of Idaho MFA Program
Kudos Update
Jan 18, 2012

Faculty

Daniel Orozco has enjoyed a fantastic response to his short story collection, *Orientation and Other Stories*. While the book has received numerous awards and positive reviews (see below, as well as September's kudos email), his Whiting Writers' Award tops the list. This is a top-shelf literary award, given annually to writers of exceptional talent and promise. The award marks Daniel as one of our nation's top writers – a well-deserved commendation for this fine writer and teacher.

As for *Orientation,* it was long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, nominated for the Story Prize, was a Vogue Magazine Summer Fiction Pick, and has been featured in Amazon's Best Books of the Month. *Orientation* continues to receive favorable reviews, including starred reviews in the *Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*, and reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *The Toronto Star*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Boston Globe*, *Ploughshares*, *Stanford Magazine*, and *Men's Journal*. Daniel was also interviewed on NPR's Marketplace. While this is quite a list, please see our September kudos email for additional awards and reviews that the collection received.

Robert Wrigley teamed up with installation artist Dani Pavlic in October for a show at the Museum of Northwest Arts and Culture in Spokane for a show titled "Territory." The show featured collaborations between established and up-and-coming artists. Earlier this month, Robert taught at the 16th Annual San Miguel Poetry Week in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and, along with **Kim Barnes**, will be teaching at the Southampton Writers Conference on Long Island in July.

Kim Barnes' latest novel, *In the Kingdom of Men,* will be released in May. It is available now for pre-order at various online merchants. Her essay, "On Language: A Short Meditation," which was published in the anniversary issue of *Fugue*, was featured as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2011.*

Alexandra Teague has published poems in *Slate*, *Cimarron Review*, and *Field*. For a preview of her forthcoming collection, *Winchester Series,* check out this month's *Seattle Review*, who will publish a series of poems from the new manuscript.

Sayantani Dasgupta's essay, "Fire Girl," was published in December's *Gulf Stream.* Her forthcoming essays include "Touching Down," to be published in *About Journal* and "The House of Nails," to be published in the February issue of *Conversations Across Borders.*

David Thacker's poem, "Haloed Flotsam," has been accepted at *Ploughshares* and will appear in the winter 2012 issue.

Alumni

Joe Wilkins (poetry '07) has several books to announce. His collection of poems, *Killing the Murnion Dogs,* was released this last November from Black Lawrence Press. His memoir, *The Mountain and the Fathers,* is forthcoming from Counterpoint Press in March of 2012. His second book of poems, *Notes from the Journey Westward,* winner of the 17th Annual White Pine Press Prize, will be published in late 2012. You can find his poems, stories, and essays in current and forthcoming issues of *Indiana Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, The Southern Review, High Country News, Orion,* and *Slate*.

Jerry Mathes (fiction '08) is happy to report that his memoir, *Ahead of the Flaming Front,* has been accepted for publication by Caxton Press. It is due out in March 2013.

Jerry's essay, "Hand-Me Down War Stories," that originally appeared in *The Southern Review* (2009) had a Special Mention in *Pushcart Prize Anthology XXXV,* and was a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2010*, will be anthologized in *That Mad Game: Growing Up During a Time of War* (forthcoming May 2012). His essay, "Playing 'The Lonely Bull,'" which was originally drafted for **Kim Barnes'** Techniques of Non-Fiction class at the U of Idaho, has just been accepted for publication at *The Sun.*

Ciara Shuttleworth's (poetry '11) poem, "Sestina," which was originally published in *The New Yorker,* will be included in two textbooks: *The Practice of Creative Writing: A guide for Students*, due out this month, and the 11th Edition of *The Norton Introduction to Literature,* to be published next year.

Stephanie Lenox (poetry '04) was featured in an interview in *The Fertile Source*, "Limitations, Imitations, and Haiku as Form of Expansion: an Interview with Poet Stephanie Lenox."

Anna Vodicka (poetry '10) had her essay, "An Open Letter to People on Airplanes Who've Tried to Convert Me," published in *Airplane Reading*. Her essay, "As Seen on TV!" will be published in *Ninth Letter*, and her essay, "Aerial Perspectives on Plumbing, Heating and Electrical," is forthcoming in *The Iowa Review.*

Laura Powers' (poetry '09) chapbook, *Speak,* is in its initial pressrun with Finishing Line Press. Laura will be a visiting editor at Blood Orange Review this semester.

Students

Cara Stoddard (non-fiction '13) is delighted to announce that her essay, "Krummholz," was chosen as the first-place winner in *Flyway*'s Notes from the Field Contest. It will be featured in their upcoming issue.

Jory Mickelson's (poetry '13) chapbook, *Slow Depth,* will be published in February by Winged City Chapbooks, a division of New Sins Press based in Toledo, Ohio. His essay on Walt Whitman, "Stranger if you Passing Meet Me," appears in the Fall 2011 issue of *RFD Magazine*. Jory has eight poems published in this month's *Assaracus: A Journal of Gay Poetry*. Additionally, his poem, "Coma Berenices," will be published in *A Face to Meet the Faces: An Anthology of Contemporary Persona Poetry*, published by University of Akron Press, and his poem, "I Can't Tell You Every Story," will appear in February's issue of *Knockout Literary journal.* Finally, his poem, "So Careful After," made the commendable list for the 2012 Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition.

Sonya Dunning (non-fiction '13) has an irregular form piece, "Smoker's Dream," published in the current issue of *Sleet Magazine*.

Amy Ross (fiction '12) had a short story, "Summer Salad," published in the fall 2011 issue of *5x5*, while her academic essay, "Revisiting the Body in Pain: The Rhetoric of Modern Masochism," has been accepted for publication in *Sexuality & Culture*.

Amy Whitcomb (fiction '13) had her poem, "Having Woken Blank Again," accepted for publication in *Flyway*.

Shawn Rubenfeld (fiction '14) has enjoyed success with poetry and fiction. You can find his poem, "Reflection," in the 2011 *Westchester Review*, his short story, "Martha and the Manuscript," in the fall 2011 issue of *The Colored Lens,* and his short story, "Turn Around" in the 2011 issue of *Paper Nautilus.*