**CREATIVE WRITING REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017 FACULTY MEETING**

The Creative Writing Program consists of four core faculty: **PAUL GRINER** (fiction), **IAN STANSEL** (fiction), **KRISTI MAXWELL** (poetry) and **KIKI PETROSINO** (director; poetry).

We offer a full range of creative writing workshops, from the multi-genre “Introduction to Creative Writing” to single-genre classes at the intermediate and advanced levels, all the way to graduate workshops. Our graduate offering allows students in the Rhet/Comp program to continue studying creative writing while completing MA and PhD work, which supports the cross-disciplinary nature of our department. In Fall 2017, we are offering our first **ON-LINE CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**, ENGL 599: Writing from Life. This course will be taught by Dr. Sarah Strickley, a part-time lecturer in our department.

The **CREATIVE WRITING MINOR** continues to attract students from across the College. In addition to taking workshops, CW minors complete requirements in the literature program here in the English Department. Faculty frequently offer “hybrid” courses, such as “America’s Wars: Fiction and Memoir,” and “End Times Narratives,” taught this fall by Prof. Paul Griner and Prof. Brian Weinberg, respectively. Such courses allow students to complete a mix of scholarly and creative assignments. As Faculty Assembly recently has approved a motion to enable English majors to minor in Creative Writing, we are fielding steady inquiries from new and prospective students interested in both programs.

The **AXTON READING SERIES** is endowed by the late Anne and William Axton, who wished to provide opportunities for students to interact with working practitioners of the literary arts. Each Axton reader completes a two day visit on campus, including a public reading on Thursday night and a master class on Friday morning. During the Master Classes, the guest author comments upon several manuscripts-in-progress by U of L students. These classes consittute a major professionalizaton opportunity for students and makes the Axton Visiting Writers Series a valuable part of our program. This fall semester, we will host three guests: essayist Aisha Sabatini Sloan (September 28-29), verse and prose by Jeff Skinner and Sarah Gorham (October 19-20), and prose by *New York Times* bestselling essayist Leslie Jamison, who will give the Writer's Block keynote on October 21. Printed promotional bookmarks will be provided to faculty for distribution in the first week of classes.

The **CALVINO PRIZE** is a prestigious award for fabulist fiction (in the style of Italo Calvino), attracting over 200 entries each year from US and international writers, with the winner receiving a cash prize, publication in Syracuse University’s *Salt Hill Journal* and an all-expense paid trip to read their story at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 (another College-wide partnership). The final judge in 2016 was Jonathan Lethem; he selected “Echo Park” by Ryan Ridge. **Brian Evenson** will judge in 2017.

Issue 9 of the Creative Writing Program’s national on-line literary magazine, **MIRACLE MONOCLE,** launched in April with a reading and launch party at The Silver Dollar featuring some of the issue's contributors. A link to the issue is here:

<https://louisville.edu/miraclemonocle>

This is a spectacular issue featuring work by local writers like Kyle Coma-Thompson and distinguished national voices like Lydia Davis, Dan Beachy-Quick, and Catherine Wing.  Dr. Sarah Strickley is the faculty editor for *Miracle Monocle*. The student staff earns graduate or undergraduate credit through our internship programs. In AY 17-18, we will launch a crowdfunding campaign to support the journal’s activities using the **ELEVATE** platform recently adopted by the U of L Advancement Office.

In Fall 2016, in recognition of the arrival of **SHAKESPEARE’S FIRST FOLIO** the Creative Writing Program hosted a campus-wide sonnet writing contest, with one winning piece, by undergraduate Stephanie McNamara, produced as a letterpress broadside by the Fine Art Department. Separately, the CW Program collaborated with Blue Apple Players, whose young actors interpreted a selection of student-produced sonnets as part of a "Sonnets on a Sunday" performance on November 13 at Water Tower Place. English Department PhD candidate Jon Udelson led the collaboration in consultation with the CW Committee and community partners.

As part of the College's Digital Humanities Initiative, and with the later essential assitance of Jason Seitz, the Creative Writing Program has revamped the **AXTON WEBSITE AND ARCHIVE** for the Axton Visiting Writers Program. The audio archive, housed on SoundCloud, will raise the profile of our program while providing a rich source of archival material for students and researchers.

With the assistance of the Delphi Center, Creative Writing faculty continue to utilize our e-text, ***CARDINAL CREATIVE WRITER****.* The text is now available for faculty and student use for ENGL 202 in the coming school year. New and returning faculty will have the opportunity to receive training in through the Delphi Center. The interface is very accessible and easy to use. Over time, CCW will grow and evolve as CW faculty and students contribute modules and other learning materials to the resource.

**CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

The Creative Writing Committee selected fourteen students to be supported in their studies with the tuition reimbursement afforded by scholarship funds. Students were celebrated on April 14 with a pizza luncheon and informal certificate ceremony.

This year's recipients are:

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| Kevin Bailey | Bree Cameron | Catherine Sar |
| Matthew Becker | Maggie Cassaro | Charlene Taylor |
| Carolyn Biggs | Amanda Forsting | Rachel Trimble |
| Emily Blair | Michael Jester | Briana Williams |
| Max Burch | James Miller |  |

Amanda Forsting won the Sara-jean McDowell Award for graduate fiction.

Emily Blair won the departmental award for graduate poetry.

Michael Jester won the Leon V. Driskell Award for undergraduate creative writing.

We're also proud to announce that MA candidate Lee Cole was admitted to the University of Iowa Writer’s Workshop, where he will begin his studies in Fall 2017.