

Quick recap on last year:

Last year, we welcomed three Axton visiting writers: poet Ross Gay; fiction writer and environmental journalist Megan Mayhew Bergman; and memoirist Menachem Kaiser, whose event was co-sponsored with the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence Annual Lecture and which took place in the new Jewish Studies Reding Room.

We brought in 300 submissions for the annual Calvino Prize, with novelist Ramona Ausubel serving as the final judge. The winner was Emily Temple for her story “Out, Out,” and Emily came to campus for a well-attended reading.

We awarded 23 CW scholarships, along with two awards, handing them out at the end-of-year celebration, which was organized by Creative Writing, Miracle Monocle, and Tim in his capacity as DUG.

We also held our annual graduate school information session, and there was a great turnout for the Poetry Derby, organized as always by Kristi Maxwell. I’ll also add that we were assisted last year by graduate student Derrick Neese, who did a fantastic job.

This year, CW classes are full or nearly full from Intro all the way up to Advanced genre-specific classes, as well as our Grad workshop.

We will welcome four acclaimed writers to campus. This semester we will have poet Claire Wahmanholm and fiction writer/memoirist Lee Durkee. And in the spring we’ll bring a screenwriter to campus for the first time. TV writer Vinnie Wilhelm, who has written for shows like Manhattan, The Terror, and Castle Rock. The plan is to hold a screening of an episode of something he wrote followed by a Q&A. The final

visiting writer of the year will be Kiki Petrosino, and obviously we're all excited about that.

We are in the midst of accepting submissions for this year's Calvino Prize.

Finally, this year we are lucky to have MA student Andrew Messer as our Assistant Director, and I'm confident that this will be great for Andrew and the program.