ACROSS THE BLUEGRASS



SELECTIONS FROM THE 2015
KENTUCKY POETRY FESTIVAL
COLLEGE SHOWCASE

ACROSS THE BLUEGRASS

SELECTIONS FROM THE 2015 KPF COLLEGE SHOWCASE

CONTENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

CARTA CUARTA • JUSTIN ALLARD THE SOUND • JEREMY JACKSON THE HOUSE SNAKE • TONI MENK STREET FIGHT, SUMMER 1995 • TYLER CURTH IN CASE OF EMERGENCY • BRITTANY HANSON MY IRISH MOTHER • PATTI CHARRON UNDISCLOSED LOCATION • BOBBY RICH MOON SOUNDS • JOANNA ENGLERT WITCHCRAFT AT THE COMMUNITY POOL • TESSA WITHORN POEM NUMBER 14 • LOGAN LITTLE I AM FORCED TO TURN THE LIGHTS ON • STELLA DACCI IF NOT THE COLD • CHRISTOPHER KNOX THE SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH OF SOUND • TORI HOOK SHARING NO LANGUAGE BUT LIGHT • MEGAN GIESKE OF SARAH, GOD. AND PCOS • MINADORA MACHERET STANDING IN THIS FIELD • ERIC BRAUN WITH PATIENCE THAT DRILLS... • CAROLINE PLASKET ZEUS IN DRAG • JOY BOWMAN A MISSED RENDEZVOUS • JORDYN RHORER

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to give special shout-outs to all of the remarkable faculty members from our participating institutions for their enthusiasm and care.

Lisa Williams, Kathleen Driskell, Merle Bachman, Kiki Petrosino, Tom Williams, George Eklund, Ann Neelon, Marcia Hurlow, Kelly Moffett, and Julia Johnson – without you, this endeavor would have ended before it started.

I would also like to thank Kristen Pickett for her help in coordinating the College Showcase, and the folks at the Davis Marksbury Building for being so accommodating.

Finally, words cannot do justice to the amount of appreciation and respect I have for all of these featured poets, for dedicating their time and energy to this celebration of this state's tremendous poetic present and future. You are all inspirations.

Now, let's read some poetry.

-Sean L Corbin College Showcase Coordinator University of Kentucky MFA

JUSTIN ALLARD

CARTA CUARTA

1

i may be the only person to confess to having a quasi-religious experience in the atlanta airport,

but the sensation of homecoming is so strong i want to touch my head to the tiles which adhere

to the tectonic america which connects to kentucky: my geographic repatriation with 76 pesos in my pocket

and the entirety of the bustling crowd in my arms—my countrymen, all traveling home eventually

as i am. my language spills out unstymied and i experience an exchange of tongues

my native muscle unravels from the intricacies of the other which curls up to sleep outside the cramped

mouth. i bolt into the many faces to my last plane, the airport now furry, fluid, and wide.

2

this is the coldest winter and the weakest sun i remember shivering at 60f and gilda wore

her pink long pants and little socks. i hope you are home and well, though my stomach

still growls for tostados, frijoles yucatecos, and arroz and my brain slides loosely between two distinct

lifestyles: mexican expectations and american reality. are you beset by a phantom tongue that keeps you up

late at night, talking to the wall since no one else understands? how are you relating your stories?—mine make me shrivel

and i tell them cheaply like a broken record with a broken heart. stay warm, dry, vocal, and sane.

the next time we'll see each other, it will be spring.

JEREMY JACKSON

THE SOUND

It was the Fourth of July when Corporal Arns, on medical leave from Kirkuk, opened a three week old care package from some Appalachian borough, laced with bundles of fireworks and a Listerine bottle filled with Wild Turkey.

In the hollow of the desert, lights flickering in a far off mud-town, its fires of warmth and wreckage, we spilled the whiskey into our guts and propelled the Yellow Jackets and Morning Glories, smearing the dark burrow of sky, laughing with the stench of sulfur and drunken air.

Nomad children stopped to smell or attempt to touch the streak of flames, to trace their hands across the blistered stars like miniature astrolabes.

But in the reveille of morning, Arns was dead in the urine trench, the mouthwash bottle slack in his right hand, his rifle somehow loosely in his left. It was not that image but its sound how it refused to ring out above the drunken swill of that night, children lapping in laughter, the sound of colors wheeling across shadow, the sound of a single bullet, its tenor climbing the darkness, a single cry elbowing against banded light until its afterglow streaks past the dunes, sounding past the quiet of napping armaments, burning out somewhere over the sleeping hills of West Virginia, the mining towns of Tennessee, quivering over the slopes of Al Kut.

It's somewhere where children are circling the glint of a fire laughing like caged soldiers breathing the sound of desperation and desert, and that narrow and unsure sound of laughter.

TONI MENK

THE HOUSE SNAKE

has shed his skin
on a limb
that reaches from the beech tree
to the roof of the house,
the same place he shed it
last year.

The patterned film drapes from the branch, flutters in the breeze.

It is tougher than it looks.

A titmouse struggles to tear off a chunk.

She will use it in her nest and it will be among the first things her offspring see and smell.

I have seen him – in person, sunning in the flowerbed. Once spying him – up high, coiled around a down spout.

Last spring I saw him up
in a tree
near a crouch where a chatty
blue-jay couple were
building a nest
-abandoned, the grass and twigs
eventually disappeared.

I open the umbrella – on the deck under the beech tree to protect from sun and rain

and falling snakes.

TYLER CURTH

STREET FIGHT, SUMMER 1993

Afterwards,
the loser stands slowly.
I watch as he lifts himself
from the curb where he gave up,
where he stayed to let things soak in,
let the adrenaline dissipate.
Everyone has gone
except the few of us who watched
from our creaking balconies.
On this block,
no one stops fights like this.
We are thankful for only fists.

Standing,
he is tall, sturdy looking
like a single corn stalk
in the streetlight's barren yellow circle.
I gauge the real damage:
his shirt is ripped across the front
where he was grabbed,
forced into this primitive display of masculinity,
dark circles of blood or piss on his pants.
Then he limps toward the silk blackness,
the spaces between the light's meager reach.
He moves slowly, sorely,
weaving in and out of lamplight
until he's to the next block,
and then gone.

Perhaps it was over a girl or some money. Perhaps just a foul look and some loose words. Though he lost, he's sparked a vengeance that's lethal in this neighborhood.

The next night, from my balcony,
I see the winner standing
with his two buddies on the same corner,
in the same barren yellow circle.
They're laughing and slinging about like champions.
Their voices echo through the corridor

of buildings, marking territory.
This is their block.
They celebrate,
palming paper-bagged bottles as big as thighs.
Like God, I see what they don't:
a car with black windows
and dimmed head lights
slithering up the street,
submerging into darkness
then reappearing under each lamp,
each time a little closer.
Before divine intervention can twitch, it's too late.
The headlights flash on,
changing the colors of their shirts.

Alarmed, they turn. Gun fire gashes the night open. Cries echo as the innocent two run, but the fighter falls with the bottles, now a smear on the pavement, motionless as the circle of light that lit his last few moments of victory.

Perhaps somebody somewhere feels that justice has been served. Perhaps it has.
Perhaps God is just like me and can only know about what happens in the scant exposure of streetlights, but never in the dark spaces in between.

BRITTANY HANSON

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

How in Tyson's name do the planets move? What keeps them from careening around like pool balls? I distrust gravity. It's too self-important. You can't be on all of the time.

And what's a quark? What exactly are they *doing* down there in the Hadron Collider... as humans, are we allowed?

I saw an article about an artificial working womb. It had a lamb inside. Should I start burning books?

A solar flare is headed our way, along with a million asteroids. What's the ventilation like in those Cold War Era bomb shelters?

The planet is spinning a certain way and its core is spinning a certain way and the ocean is spinning a certain way. What would it look like? a seven continent pile up on the meridian.

All our Qur'an's have been used for bonfires and the Bible pages rolled and smoked and those damn pamphlets from the Jehovahs line the bottoms of our bird cages. So where do we go for answers?

We could collect call Mars but it won't accept the charges. We could knock at Europa who will pretend no one's home. We could apologize to Pluto but we know it holds grudges and the man in the moon is tired and deaf from listening to all of our bullshit.

Maybe it's best if we just stay put keep on doing what we're doing and wait to reap the benefits of the changes we want but that none of us are willing to make.

PATTI CHARRON

MY IRISH MOTHER

My Irish mother Poured words into my childhood lexicon That earned me quizzical glances And sometimes handed me trouble.

That which annoyed her was bloody: Bloody neighbor's Rottweiler tore up the trash Bloody dripping spigot in the tub Bloody moles shredded the garden

I was banjaxed:

When the chain came off my bicycle When I dropped my arithmetic book in the bath When I forgot the lace prayer cap for morning mass

She wouldn't tolerate a puss face: When I didn't get my way When I had to eat the peas When it was time to go to bed

She hated rubbish and blarney: From my dad's fishing buddy, Mack From Silas, the loud, flirty grocer From the whiskeyed Fr. Allen, especially

She whispered on the phone To her sisters, Margaret and Martha, When their brother, Thomas, Was locked and plastered

I knew this meant my dad Would take some cash from his desk, Go downtown to the jail Then bring him to our house

Because Uncle Tommy was knackered Because he was a boyo, a hoodlum, And she wasn't about to give him a gander, Not until he got himself right Oh, Jaysuss, Mary and Joseph! She would cry to the ceiling, wail and mutter You push me to the bloody limits, Beyond the beyonds!

So I felt right to say to Sister Helen, When she made me read aloud yet again An example of excellence for my class Oh Jaysuss, Sister, you push me to the bloody limits!

And because of my Irish mother, The words that she brought from home, Because I didn't know that Jaysuss was "Jesus," I was banjaxed. And knackered. Beyond the beyonds.

BOBBY RICH

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

I found the place once again where the taproot of however-you-want-to-characterize-thatthing-anymore initially took hold past midnight in the back of my car that summer years ago and it seems odd that such a seemingly insignificant street would become a place to revisit but then again lots of things seem odd to me in negative in mirror inverted my breath now steamy in this Kentucky winter once obscured the glass of my Volvo once mingled with your own once shared with your lungs inhale exhale you complete my pump my machine and so the trees now brittle skeletons once guarded our presence from the light of the moon on this lonely street with their full fat-leaved arching limbs they stood as though they were soon to be at war with the houses facing them the houses set high and steep set like sentries of this half-cobblestone hill path set like witnesses to the close-walled greenhouse we'd made a cocoon of leather and steel and I was convinced that I'd die choking on your hair how many times you had to pull it from my throat like a trolling line then brown then red then pink now blue I know I know though I haven't seen you in so long I shouldn't keep tabs but damnit I do and I was sure that nothing existed outside that vehicle anymore and that didn't matter anyway but time passed it always does shots were fired and apparently we found and trapped and killed Osama Bin Laden apparently disposed of him in accordance with Islamic law by which I mean put him on ice and dumped that frozen fucker in an undisclosed location somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic ocean that's just how I remember the date but such knowledge only came after we finally drove away around 3AM and you said you thought you knew somebody on that street I said well what a funny coincidence and coincidentally I now mount their stairs the person you knew who I am soon to meet for reasons completely unrelated and I survey the slanted street looking for remnants or signs or a husk we may have shed there a hollow record of our hips pre-dating the whole mess that became us and here now in this dry December cold I feel your warm lips at my ear cooing let's just stay here let's just stay here let's just stay here let's just stay here until the last leaves fall

JOANNA ENGLERT

MOON SOUNDS

```
When you died, Johnny,
        we held your
        funeral on the moon.
Not for its poetry,
        or religion,
But for its science.
        (Silence?)
You: twenty-five.
The moon: billions.
And no sound ever. (No atmosphere, you know?)
Naturally,
        this required research. You'd want facts, just like us.
The moon:
        induces earth tides (sea contractions),
        but poetry, too.
Egg-shaped,
        its craters don't change much;
        invisible lakes can't erode.
They think it was once part of the earth,
        and now each year it drifts further away.
        (It's happening now. Can you feel it?)
Really, we thought you'd like to know it better.
There were still motions:
       heads bowed.
        hands clasped,
        a procession—however warped (gravity)—
        and (mouthed) eulogies unsounded;
        we left them invisible to echo,
        cupped in craters.
We brought no flowers,
        they'd never make it.
        Still, a vision:
        petals like confetti.
From the moon, we watched that night in spring
        so many years ago (May, the "Milk Moon"):
        all of us sitting on a curb
        outside a party,
        our heads foggy
        (or were they clear?)
        from the joint you just passed us,
        and we watched the moon:
```

a headlight hung in cheap air, the sky a baby mobile starscape.

The voices inside,

they were too many to be one, not enough to be numerous: sound tides.

We looked at earth and watched ourselves, movements like water rings on a coffee table.

What I'm telling you is, In 1971, Stuart Roosa took seeds to the moon and back; now the earth is filled with "Moon Trees." I think that's what you'll be now.

You died, Johnny,
And we held your funeral
on the moon.
So that back on earth,
you could be silence in a moon tree garden.

TESSA WITHORN

WITCHCRAFT AT THE COMMUNITY POOL

We circle around a red deck of cards and sprinkle drops of chlorine water from prune-wet fingertips. *Is there a spirit here?* Two of Clubs, black means no. Flip over the next card. Beyond the fence, rocks guard a child-sized cemetery of lichened tombstones. *Is there a spirit here?* Queen of Hearts, red means yes. Pierced ears to the breeze, we listen for voices above water splashes, baby shrieks of exorcisms from the kiddie pool. *Will you give us a sign?* Ten of Diamonds, yes. Whistles blow and we wade in the shallows in wait. I point across the deep end, where we're not allowed to swim. They see signs too, someone's suit changed from black to red—like oozing cherry afterbirth from spitting out the pit. Empty Adirondacks by the poolside shimmer with spirit sweat and sun. We're anxious for the autumn equinox, to bleed between our legs brilliant patterns like the backs of cards. *Do you promise not to hurt us?* Jack of Spades, no.

LOGAN LITTLE

POEM NUMBER 14

Take these words for what they are I will never forget how yours felt Jagged palm-sized pieces of glass Imposturous diamonds still shine

God, what a light!

Every time I hear them in my head
They cut
And they cut, with the sound
Of the spades grinding teeth, of clay on steel
Away at my days like rain for fresh sod
Gathering puddles of reflection
A gravedigger's ambition too often drowns
In his boots

I planted some flowers this year instead And boy, are they growin' Like the distance between the last days When my sweat turned no stones My eyes never met her sun Carrying water in the cup of my hand

Those poor flowers

I forget they too have lives
And they too admire the sun and moon
Amongst the stars and you, but this year
Birds will bathe and buds will bloom
With colors I could only have seen in those eyes
With petals as soft and frail
As the same morning lips

They will bloom only to shrivel Loosing their petals and pigment

They too will know those words Spoken amongst white and pink pastels

I will have dug each one of those holes Sowing seed as I go

STELLA DACCI

I AM FORCED TO TURN THE LIGHTS ON

throughout the kitchen so that the darkness is relegated to the backs of corners and underneath chairs as I go get my favorite coffee mug the one that is all-over brown except for the white chipped places that sits by that stainless steel sink like it has always sat there by that sink in front of those windows that only seem to get angrier each passing hour pulling in the steam and arabica to my nose it's almost like it has always been this rough-boarded kitchen and this coffee mug for my whole entire life and I would love to have one of those biscuits in the red handkerchief but always when I envision it in my head it starts to feel like biting into an egg sac and then my mouth is so full of baby spiders a legion of spiders that I get the sensation that my mouth is vibrating and that is how I know that it is impossible that it ever could have been this kitchen and that sink and those boards that can't decide how the gaps should fix themselves and it was never this coffee mug and I'll need to keep my eyes open if these are the kind of things I have to catch

CHRISTOPHER KNOX

IF NOT THE COLD

Driving through the dark, the stars hum in time with the echo of wheels passing the guardrail and I think, I could have known my other self but I left it inside the guitar case that had to be sold for rent.

Each window I pass is a gaping hole in the fabric of night.

The expectation is that these holes are warm on the inside, but they resemble sickrooms

with black blankets tucked in around them.

I have to stop my thoughts. I have to hum with the stars to keep going.

This dark works best out of vacuum, out of time.

Sometimes it feels like I could just stop and pay attention, but no-the only thing that speaks to me is a blue flower buried in a landscape upon wallpaper, safe from the plunder of winter.

TORI HOOK

THE SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH OF SOUND

For my baby brother.

Can you hear me when I stomp my feet on the smoothie-stained carpet, sending "Listen to me!" across sound barriers, hoping maybe the message will reach your fingertips?

When I eskimo kiss your nose and flutter my eyelashes—sorry about the mascara— I just called to say I love you. Can you hear me?

When I take away
the Chester's cheese puffs
and you throw an Iron Man
action figure at my head,
I curl in the kitchen
by the dishwasher and cry.
You watch the tears smear
my face and smudge
them away with cheesy
fingers. Do you understand?
Can you hear me?

The Clonidine kicks in at 8:04 and you pull my head down to rest on your pacemaker. "Sing," you sign. I drop an octave for optimal vibration and move my lips against your chest so you can feel

"you make me happy when skies are gray." Your eyes watch to make sure I'm not just humming you can't lip-read laryngitis— Promise I'll sing for real this time, but can you hear me?

MEGAN GIESKE

SHARING NO LANGUAGE BUT LIGHT

III. Universe as a Bad Mother

While bowing in the Arizona desert,
We wipe dark matter off our brows, deep cut
as Europa's rifts, polish our thousands of radiotelescopes
to an apocryphal white, and feed the thing
inside the black hole with cosmic smoke signals
sent across the galaxy to drift into the cigarette-haze
of a cosmic birthmother with four
limbs, one mouth, and a pair of eyes.
We call her not "she," but thing: glow, god(s), infinity,
everything eternal, and anything but secular:
the same star-flung belief that named the night sky,
where Nut in star-studded dress
arches her back over the Earth.

Now, she presses her eye to a tiny black hole in space from which she stares *back*, and with the solar wind, she runs her fingers through our hair, mouthing, "EARTHSHINE EARTHSHINE," as the childlike among us teeter towards her across the ecliptic to look for her in the sun even if it blinds.

What would we ask her, if for a sign of something infinite?

II. Life Is a Theory

Sharing no language but *light*, we tune in space noise for sounds of life as faint as that of Jupiter rotating like sparks that fly in the meteor's tail,

and listen to the light of sun-like stars.... We expect a human hand turning the knob, listening to our widescreen blip, microwave pop-corn signals, electromagnetic shockwaves of Mickey Mouse, of Elvis, of your grandmother's Sinatra record, and your father's *Let It Be* album, cosmically, "Turn on. Tune in. Drop out," and explode.

Outside *The Explorer*drifting to the edge of a waterless Earth
into the vast, ageless, churchless dark
two Chinese astronauts for thirty years,
have been asking: Is the universe round
like a balloon? Is it flat like a rubber band?
Elastic, will it snap back? Will they answer,
and fling a crumpled note in the rubber band
of an expanding universe? Answer,
"Hello, Earthlings?" on the telephone,
strung across Mars' canyons and oceans?
Of course, they'll answer. If we ask, they'll answer.

Asking:

This message is going out to all of space

Answering:

Are we alone?

I. Landing in Indiana

Space would be the main thing. Whether Midwest or Farwest, whether Galaxy A1-52 or A1-53. in both, there is "a terrible waste of space." The road's always straight, that immaculate emptiness, as if the radio advertised tornadoes. The country's level as Saturn's rings, flat and limitless . . . and with alternating strips of quicksilver water, harsh green corn and Jupiter's hurricane eye above half the sky thin as nebulous clouds. After the winter solstice, you hear the most lonesome space sounds pulse across the galactic plane of cold December fields in stubble to make the prairie hawks wheel in the hateful black space

like swaying Acrius of Babylon in the whirring wind, hunched

from the moaning of alien corn, ears an oracle white, listening, blinking kernels into being, growing taller, simply obeying. They're seemingly, the creatures waiting forlornly in the fields as if this is the somewhere, the "something incredible, waiting to be known," and us

ignorant not of what we may find, but of what we have found.

MINADORA MACHERET

OF SARAH, GOD, AND PCOS

Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him" ~Genesis 17:19

When God birthed you you became Mother—no longer Princess. Breathe in smoke, cells expand your womb of bird's nest, flourishes.

Inhale on laughter exhale a scream as angels hold you down; Isaac conceived—your lone egg, holy. Your ovaries were stone, but in that instant became flesh.

Reap a nation and God will have your back, but disease is crueler, it left your genes and entered mine.

ERIC BRAUN

STANDING ALONE IN THIS FIELD

white powder has covered the ground, cold has come.

birds have gone, and taken some of my fingers with them. deer have eaten my skin away with their large teeth.

I am a naked giant, and have nothing left, but few precious things inside,
that still make me whole.

become my shelter -

let me live amongst your branches.

become my home -

lend me the hole in your side.

become my food -

termites gnaw into my bones.

become my warmth -

they demand with their axes.

become my protector –

grass begs.

I am ancient. gnarled. exfoliated-

bare

before god and man.

how can I do these things?

my roots soaked up the gentle earth, for decades now. They are full to bursting, with sap that will not rise.

a lone tree, am I.

my crystal covered limbs reach up to cold morning skies, my roots

sink

deep, into the earth.

I pray for the same things all creatures pray for. yet I stand here, waiting, for nourishment, protection, and a single touch that does not ache.

CAROLINE PLASKET

WITH PATIENCE THAT DRILLS, A MOTHER CAN DIG A HOLE FROM ONE SIDE OF THE EARTH TO THE OPPOSITE AND CRAWL THROUGH, JUST TO GET SOME WORDS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

I thought, "Youth looks good on her."
I considered her pink cheeks
and remembered my own insufficiencies in those times when,
weren't we all fumbling to hold beauty in our cupped hands
while trying to make it look as if we were shooing something away?

I thought she would open up, and her thoughts would fall on me but it was hard rubber in her mouth, and

words are migrant, and language sometimes inflexible. She stretched like the neck of a nestling reaching to feed. When we eventually pulled each one out I showed her how to warm them and turn them into something soft she could land on.

JOY BOWMAN

ZEUS IN DRAG

On his way he trades gold for two roosters. Ripping a star from the sky, he shreds the strawberry flesh from the fowl. In a burlap sack, he brings seven hens to keep the seven bitches at bay.

Artemis is alone in the self-pleasuring pain of secluded sleep—a sister who is not a sister, who tries to be a man.

The nymphs wait, guarding themselves.

Zeus binds his waist, fashions a girdle out of cypress and palm, a dead fox matted with spongy earth serves as a cape. He wrings out the juice, shakes from the inflamed fur a confetti of maggots, thinks of Callisto, and says to himself:

For you I will crawl like a slug, For you I will pound cattail reeds and arrowheads into my side. For you it is hunger and nothing else.

He thinks of a damp mouth, obliging lips, leaves hoof prints on the sodden forest floor. He pounds shells and rocks together to color his eyes silver, to remind her of the moon. He rubs himself with grit and dirt creating shadows to trick her eyes.

He throws the hens to the watchdogs, each bitch busy gnashing and conceals his jaws with a mantle of silver skin. He takes honey and plasters the cockscombs, violet and crimson, onto himself all the while thinking: For you I will give the familiar.

He finds her naked and alone. Pulling at the gaping holes in his side, he speaks of trespassers, hunters: *My sister, the journey has been hard on me.* His veil slips as she thrashes beneath him, golden horns emerging.

Meanwhile, Artemis dreams of a girl who wants to be a woman, whose son will be her undoing and is better off cast into the sky.

JORDYN RHORER

A MISSED RENDEZVOUS

I wish I had words for what your tongue can do, wrapped around drawn-out oo's and delicate shhh's when you let out the words *bouche*, *boucle*, *brosser*, *brune*.

You close your eyes and get into character, more French than *pain au chocolat*, with your fingers cupped around your bottomless pour-over like it's the last *touché* touch you'll ever *toucheras* touch.

Your lips spell *café*, and you watch her, the girl two tables over, her toes inched farther and farther away from herself like she'll *faire un somme* over a philosophy textbook. I imagine you are in Paris.

We're just meeting for the first time in a very long time, our *retrouvailles* plays on your lips before you flip the card and move to how delicate the *gâteau* is here, how you're not impressed with the *glaçage*.

I hear you say, "Le gâteau n'est pas assez sucré," with your fingers perched in a pinch like you've caught the word mid-air. I want to taste the end of your fingertips, I have always had les sucreries. I have the taste for it.

But our meeting, our date, our reunion is *coupe*, *coupes*, *coupons*, cut too short when you finish the stack of three-by-fives and pack up your bag without looking my way.

2015 KENTUCKY POETRY FESTIVAL COLLEGE SHOWCASE

JUSTIN ALLARD • CENTRE COLLEGE JEREMY JACKSON • SPALDING UNIVERSITY **TONI MENK • SPALDING UNIVERSITY** TYLER CURTH • SPALDING UNIVERSITY **BRITTANY HANSON • SPALDING UNIVERSITY** PATTI CHARRON • SPALDING UNIVERSITY **BOBBY RICH • UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE** JOANNA ENGLERT • UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE TESSA WITHORN • UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DYLON JONES • UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WALTER LOGAN LITTLE • MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY STELLA DACCI • MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY ROBERT CAMPBELL • MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY CHRISTOPHER KNOX • MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY TORI HOOK • ASBURY UNIVERSITY **MEGAN GIESKE • ASBURY UNIVERSITY** MINADORA MACHERET • NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ERIC BRAUN • NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY CAROLINE PLASKET • NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY JOY BOWMAN • UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY JORDYN RHORER • UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BIANCA RUDNICK • TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY