

# The Seventh Week

clarion west writers workshop · spring 2013

## CW's 30th Anniversary Thirty Years of Stories

### Early Years



Founders JT Stewart and Vonda N. McIntyre, circa 1985



CW's third founder, Marilyn Holt



A very young Gordon Van Gelder ('87) tosses classmate Kij Johnson over his shoulder on Broadway on Capitol Hill, while Michael Sterns (left) looks on.



The last class of the original Clarion Workshop — run by Robin Scott Wilson in Clarion, Pennsylvania — included Clarion West founder Vonda N. McIntyre (first on the left in the front row) and Octavia E. Butler (farthest right), with instructor Harlan Ellison seated.



The first Clarion West workshop took place in 1984 in the chemistry classroom at Seattle Central Community College. David Hartwell (far left) was one of instructors that summer, for a class that included Greg Cox (far right).



Founder JT Stewart (left) mingles with 1984 graduate Donna Davis (facing camera), who served as a Clarion West co-administrator from 1987-91, and Richard Clement (behind Donna's shoulder), at a 1985 party. ►►

► **Teachers, Students, Staff**



George R. R. Martin signs a book for Tamela Viglione, circa 1999.



Octavia E. Butler talks with student ibi aanu gbeyor in 2001.



Lilah Wild ('07) and Chip Delany



Pat Cadigan whips students into shape in the lounge at Seattle University's Campion Tower.



Students and instructor Nalo Hopkinson relax at Greg Bear and Astrid Anderson Bear's lakeside home.



John Crowley expounds his points with passion! Pictured here with student Adrian Khactu and the Verisimilitoad.



How can you tell Robert (Bert) Brown ('02)'s story is being critiqued?



David Myers ('87) and Leslie Howle ('85) at the back of the chemistry classroom at SCCC. Along with other administrative tasks, they are collating manuscripts, taking notes, and building forts out of boxes of paper clips.

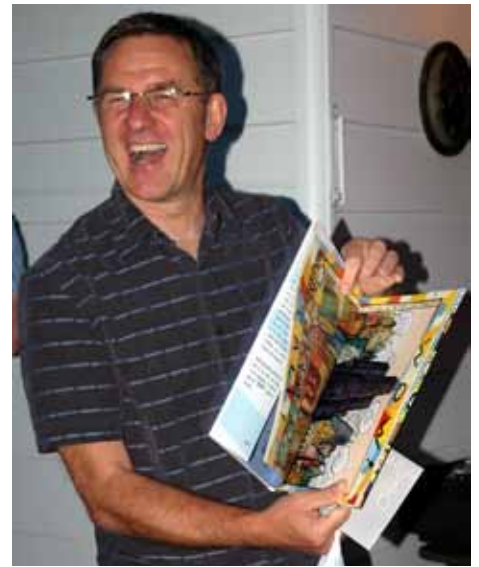


Cory Doctorow's students presented him with a great homemade "Super Cory" outfit complete with cape and goggles.





Charles de Lint plays music for his students at a party while Greg Bear looks on.



Graham Joyce gets a kick out of the thank you present his students got him.



Guest speakers Ted Chiang and Mark Laidlaw talk with students and instructor Cory Doctorow.



Neile Graham, Clarion West co-administrator, talks with Paul Park at his University Book Store signing.



The class of 2005 was especially creative with the things they did to the Verisimilito.



An Owomoyela ('08) holds CW mascot Luke.



Dario Ciriello, Ysabeau Wilce, and James Thomas (Class of 2002) listen to their instructor in a Campion Tower lounge.



Nancy Kress is telling Les how well her CW students are doing!

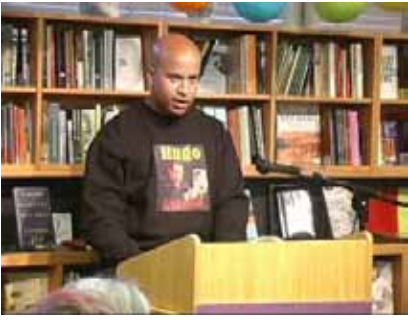


Nalo Hopkinson signs posters.



Les hugs the wonderfully talented Mike Alexander on his graduation from Clarion West in 2010. ▶▶

## ▸ Readings and Awards



Minister Faust reads at University Book Store.



Charles Stross reads at University Book Store.



Howard Waldrop interviewed Ellen Datlow at her reading at the Elliott Bay Book Company. Laughter ensued.



Elizabeth Hand reads from her book *Generation Loss*.



Chuck Palahniuk gave out lifelike stuffed tigers at his reading!



George R. R. Martin reads at Town Hall.



Mary Rosenblum at her reading



Nisi Shawl awards Caren Gusoff ('08) the Octavia E. Butler Memorial Scholarship Owl. Caren's classmate Theresa DeLucci looks on.



Clarion West graduates from several different years — Tod McCoy ('10), Lucas Johnson ('09), Lauren Dixon ('10), Caren Gusoff ('08) and Cat Rambo ('05) — enjoy a reading. Lauren Dixon shares her seat with CW mascot Raffi.



Vonda N. McIntyre, Syne Mitchell ('94), Ursula K. Le Guin, and Octavia E. Butler spoke on a panel together celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Clarion West. ▶▶

► Cutting Loose



Gardner Dozois and Connie Willis illustrate the never-ending dance between editor and author.



Michael Underwood ('07) teaches Graham Joyce and his classmates how to salsa.



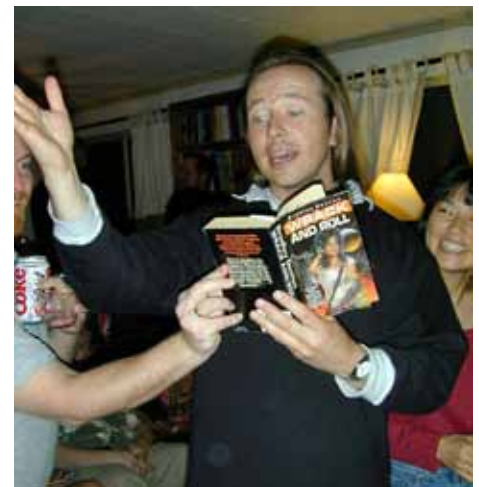
Simran Khelsa ('02) and Blunt Jackson get their dance moves on at a party.



James Herndon, Alyc Helms, Henry Lien, and Kim Neville perform a rousing rendition of "Ready to Launch", the CW 2012 theme song.



Nalo Hopkinson, ably assisted by her students, becomes a Hindu Goddess with many arms.



Patrick Samphire ('01) reads aloud from Bradley Denton's novel *Wrack and Roll* to fellow students and instructor Brad.

Benjamin Rosenbaum meditates with the toad posing as his crown chakra.

► Parties



JT Stewart (center) poses with students from the first two CW workshops.



John Crowley and Ursula K. Le Guin



Leslie Howle and Minister Faust



Students from the Class of 2006 — Gord Sellar, Ian McHugh, Mark Bukovec, Ben Burgis, and Shawn Scarber — show off Tina Connolly's amazing face painting skills.



China Miéville and Neal Stephenson



Joe Haldeman talks with Karen Anderson Astrid Anderson Bear's mother, and widow of Poul Anderson.



Neile Graham, Jay Lake, Vicki Saunders, and Emily Skaftun ('09).



Paul Park, Greg Bear, and Erik Bear



Ted Chiang and John Kessel



Neile Graham and James Trombetta talk with CW Board Chair Deborah Fisher at the Bears party.



A serendipitous party reunites four members of the Class of 1987: Gordon Van Gelder, Kij Johnson, Richard Terra, and David Myers. ♦



Adrian Khactu, Liz Spencer, Bert Brown, and Dario Cierillo ham it up.



Shawn Scarber, Rebecca Gold, Meghan Sinoff, Caroline Yoachim, Ian McHugh, and Ben Burgis relax at the final party in their new Clarion West Class of 2006 T-shirts.



## Looking Backward and Forward

BY LESLIE HOWLE '85

Fast forward — it's Clarion West's 30th Anniversary. Wow, how did I get here?

I love stories: those we write and those about who we are. I enjoy the learning process, and my day job has always been in nonprofit education. But what I love most is watching writers work with their instructors and peers as they learn new ways of thinking about story. With my co-administrators, I've worked to continually improve and safeguard that core workshop experience. This is what has kept me dedicated and engaged with the workshop.

I attended Clarion West in my twenties. I never imagined going through that experience would shape so much of my life! There have been sacrifices along the way, but I don't regret them. I'm blessed to have watched so many talented writers grow under the tutelage of amazing instructors. I've been enriched by our alumni, my fellow CW staff, volunteers, board members, and all who have worked

to ensure the workshop's long-term sustainability.

We have a lot to celebrate. I look at *Telling Tales*, our anniversary anthology (it got a starred review from *Publishers Weekly!*) and this year's Nebula ballot, and I'm proud and happy for all that our grads have achieved over the years. I'm excited about this summer's students and brilliant instructors. And I've decided that after this workshop, it is time for me to step down as workshop director.

I'll volunteer on the workshop committee and might consult next summer, but this workshop is my last.

It's been an amazing journey. Clarion West is an organization built, supported, and engaged by writers who have benefited from this writing boot camp. It's a community of individuals bonded by imagination, heart, courage, talent, and determination, and I'm grateful to have been a part of it for so long. ♦

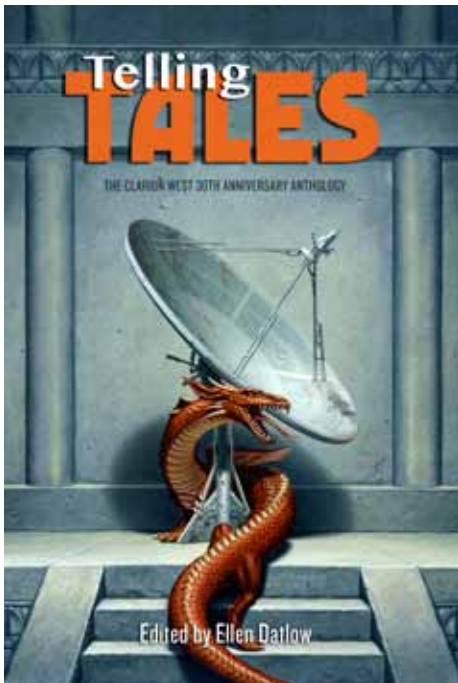
## Leslie Howle to Retire This Fall

Leslie Howle, who has served as an administrator for the workshop since 1988, has announced that she will be retiring at the end of August. Leslie graduated from Clarion West in 1985, volunteered the next two years, and then became an administrator as part of an evolving team of co-administrators that included Linda Jordan-Eichner, Donna Davis Rysdyk, and David E. Myers. She currently serves as workshop director. Leslie instituted many of the procedures that made the workshop what it is today. She also served as board chair from 1991 through 1999, and oversaw the growth and wellbeing of the organization during a financially precarious period.

In retirement, Leslie plans to devote more time to her own writing, and will

continue to stay involved with Clarion West, especially on the workshop committee, and to be available for consultation and projects. A special message from her appears above.

"Leslie Howle's care and attention over the past twenty-eight years have helped make Clarion West the success it is today," says Karen Anderson, chair of the board of directors. "We are planning a special celebration of Leslie and her contributions to Clarion West this fall, as part of our 30th anniversary celebration." The board plans to fill the open position for permanent executive director before addressing the issue of who will succeed Leslie. Interested parties should contact Board Chair Karen Anderson or Interim Executive Director LeAnne Moss. ♦



The Clarion West Writers Workshop has teamed up with Hydra House to publish *Telling Tales*, an anthology of short fiction by award-winning and highly acclaimed Clarion West alumni and edited by Ellen Datlow. The first such book produced by Clarion West, *Telling Tales* will be released on July 1, 2013, to celebrate the workshop's 30th Anniversary year and help raise funds for the organization.

*Telling Tales* contains sixteen works of speculative fiction, ranging from near-future science fiction to swashbuckling fantasy — stories by Daniel Abraham, Andy Duncan, Kathleen Goonan, Kij Johnson, Margo Lanagan, David Levine, Louise Marley, David Marusek, Ian McHugh, Susan Palwick, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Mary Rosenblum, Christopher Rowe, Nisi Shawl, Rachel Swirsky, and Ysabeau Wilce.

An afterword accompanies each story, written by an instructor from that graduate's year: Greg Bear, Terry Bisson, Pat Cadigan, Gardner Dozois, Andy Duncan, Elizabeth Hand, Nancy Kress, Ursula K. Le Guin, Maureen McHugh, Pat Murphy, Samuel R. Delany, Paul Park, Geoff Ryman, Lucy Sussex, Howard Waldrop, and Connie Willis.

The book will be available for pre-orders in April in hardcover, paperback, and eBook formats from Hydra House (<http://www.hydrahousebooks.com>), the University Book Store in Seattle, and other online retailers. ♦

# Clarion West Writers Workshop

## Board of Directors

Karen G. Anderson | *Chair*  
 Vicki N. Saunders | *Vice Chair*  
 Susan Gossman | *Treasurer*  
 Kelley Eskridge  
 Felicia Gonzalez  
 Phoebe Harris  
 Jeffrey Lemkin  
 Tod McCoy  
 Nisi Shawl  
 LeAnne Moss | *Interim Executive Director* | *ex officio*  
 Leslie Howle | *ex officio*  
 Neile Graham | *ex officio*

## Workshop

Leslie Howle | *Workshop Director*  
 Neile Graham | *Workshop Administrator*  
 Suzanne Tompkins | *Office Manager*

## Development and Membership

Keri Healey | *Grantwriter*  
 Kate Schaefer | *Database Consultant*  
 Erin Cashier | *Write-a-thon Chair*  
 Rachel Swirsky | *Diversity and Outreach*

## Communications

Nisi Shawl | *Director of Communications*  
 Eugene Myers | *Editor, Seventh Week*  
 Vicki N. Saunders | *Art Director*  
 Lauren Dixon | *Copywriter*  
 Victoria E. Garcia | *Copywriter/Forums Moderator*  
 Eileen Gunn | *Copywriter*  
 Lucas Johnson | *Copywriter*  
 Deborah A. Taber | *Copy Editor/Proofreader*  
 Eden Robins | *Copy Editor/Proofreader*  
 Erik Owomoyela | *Website Manager*  
 Roz Clarke | *Social Media Czarina*  
 Sabrina Chase | *Website User Registration*





## Message from the Chair

BY KAREN ANDERSON

### CELEBRATING THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

While this newsletter is focused on revisiting and celebrating thirty years of Clarion West history, I'm going to write a bit about what's new. There have been some significant events in the past month.

In late April, we received news from the National Endowment for the Arts that Clarion West has been selected to receive a 2013 Art Works grant. The \$10,000 NEA award will support both the summer workshop and our relatively new one-day workshop series. The grant came about as the result of an application that we submitted (unsuccessfully) for an earlier round of funding, but which we then revised and resubmitted. I mention this because there's encouragement here for writers — keep submitting! The news was even sweeter

because the NEA selected Clarion West from among the 817 grant recipients to be one of the thirteen organizations featured in its own press release about the awards.

The news from longtime workshop director Leslie Howle, which also came last month, is bittersweet: Leslie, with whom so many of you have enjoyed working, will retire as workshop director at the end of August. She has brought to Clarion West outstanding instructors, talented students, and generous donors, and she will be missed. Leslie's many contributions to Clarion West will be recognized at the Clarion West 30th Anniversary celebration to be held early this fall.

### THE CHALLENGE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Less dramatic, but equally significant, is news about the work the board has taken on this year to enable Clarion West to continue into the next thirty years. Just as our graduates face the challenge of forging sustainable careers in the world of agents, publishers, readers, and reviewers, Clarion West faces the challenge of ensuring that our renowned workshop experience can be offered year after year.

We must do more than simply follow a successful formula. Clarion West exists in a highly dynamic world. The demographics and interests of our applicants are changing. The field of speculative fiction is evolving. The concerns and expectations of donors and granting organizations are shifting. The field of publishing, which many of our graduates enter, is in an era of unprecedented transformation.

Thanks to our talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors, Clarion West is well along the path to sustainability. This is why we've been able to remain financially stable at a time when other arts organizations are struggling. It's why we're exploring new programming, such as one-day workshops. And it's why we're currently working with an outstanding interim executive director, LeAnne Moss, to make sure that Clarion West observes nonprofit best practices.

### THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

Nearly everyone who encounters Clarion West remarks immediately on the size and the strength of our community. We have 540 graduates and instructors from thirty years of summer workshops. We have hundreds of volunteers and supporters from communities such as Potlatch, Arisia, Norwescon, OryCon, WisCon, Worldcon, the Carl Brandon Society, and the Susan C. Petrey Fund. We're closely connected to a vast community of speculative fiction readers. We're global, we're diverse, and, thanks to the internet, we're connected.

Nowhere is the power of Clarion West's community more evident than during the annual Write-a-thon. In the past few years, this grassroots funding effort has grown in the number of writing participants, in the number of donors, and in the amount of money raised. Last year we had a record 228 writer-participants who together raised more than \$21,000.

What's particularly satisfying about the volunteer-powered online Write-a-thon is that it supports writing while at the same time creating it. Clarion West instructor Nicola Griffith calls the Write-a-thon "the shadow workshop" — not just because it runs in parallel with the six-week summer workshop, but because it gives graduates and supporters a taste of the workshop experience and energy. It has rekindled dormant writing careers and inspired new ones.

### AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

That brings us back around to where I started: Talking about a deeply personal time of artistic creation in which talent is discovered and potential is realized.

Whether you are an incoming student, a Clarion West graduate, or one of our generous supporters, I wish you a summer that is rich in artistic experiences. I hope that many of you will consider jump-starting that artistic work through the 2013 Write-a-thon. ♦



# Time and Money

BY SUSAN GOSSMAN

When I'm not volunteering as treasurer of Clarion West, I invest in the stock market. Companies with the best long-term returns usually have a good record of their treatment of customers, employees, and shareholders. The financial statements I analyze aren't just numbers on a screen — they reflect the quality of management.

The same principle holds with nonprofits. The quality of the workshops plays a critical role in influencing the amount of donations we collect. If we produced lousy workshops, support would evaporate overnight. The excellent numbers in the summary financial statement also reflect the quality of the people involved with Clarion West.

The statement shows funds collected from alumni, writers, fans, and other supporters as both restricted and unrestricted donations. Restricted donations can only be spent for a specific purpose; in our case, most restricted donations are earmarked for scholarships. Unrestricted donations can be used for everything else, including paying for operating expenses.

Here are the highlights of 2012's financial results as compared to the previous year:

- During both 2011 and 2012, we were very fortunate to receive a generous grant from Amazon.com.
- Restricted donations increased primarily because of three substantial new scholarship donations, which made a significant difference in the amount of scholarships we gave to students. In prior years, some scholarship applicants received about \$400–800 to help defray the cost of the \$3,600 tuition. Now we can cover a much larger percentage of tuition.
- Unrestricted donations are comprised of the Write-a-thon, annual appeal, and other contributions. We use this money to pay our contractors and overhead expenses necessary to run the workshop. An unrestricted donation keeps the costs down for all students and allows us to keep our tuition at or below similar workshops.
- Workshop income consists of tuition received from the six-week and one-day workshops, as well as workshop application fees. Last year, our stellar

instructor line-up, including George R. R. Martin and Chuck Palahniuk, attracted a record number of applicants, resulting in a jump in application fees.

- Additional workshop income was partially offset by a \$9,600 increase in the amount of scholarships paid to students.
- On the expense side, there was a rise in fundraising, administrative, and readings expenses. Still, these expenses increased at a slower rate than revenue, resulting in a net surplus of \$33,199.

Investing in the stock market has taught me that even the best-managed companies experience years with a loss of revenue. In 2008, almost every company and nonprofit organization had a bad year. Uncertainty is a fact of life: During my tenure as treasurer, there have been years where we barely break even, as well as prosperous years such as 2012. Since we do not know what will happen in the future, it is critical that we continue to ask for donations — and work very hard to make sure they are used wisely. ♦

Profit and Loss Comparison - Last year		
1/1/2011 through 12/31/2012 (Cash Basis)		
Category	1/1/2011-12/31/2011	1/1/2012-12/31/2012
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	31,250	33,045
Matching fund	1,538	3,727
Other	165	102
Readings	0	11,432
Restricted Donations	18,092	35,528
Unrestricted Donations	39,661	47,569
Workshop	49,650	57,420
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>140,357</b>	<b>188,823</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
7th Week	2,456	2,063
Administration	41,042	52,897
Fundraising	16,239	22,276
Readings	3,846	5,838
Workshop	66,105	72,550
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>129,687</b>	<b>155,624</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>33,199</b>

# CW People

## STUDENTS, INSTRUCTORS, AND VOLUNTEERS CHECK IN

[Editor's note: For this issue, alumni were invited to share memories about their Clarion West experience, from workshop traditions like playing Thing to T-shirt quotes. If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics, please send it to [eugene\\_myers@clarionwest.org](mailto:eugene_myers@clarionwest.org).]

### STUDENTS

#### 1972

*The Final Trick of Funnyman and Other Stories* and *Like Water for Quarks* are now available as eBooks from Baen Books (<http://www.baenbooks.com>). Kevin J. Anderson's WordFire Press came out with a new eBook edition of *Stormworld*, co-authored with Brian Herbert. Brian and I have completed the first draft of a new novella and are going ahead with a sequel. I have also co-authored with him a short story, "The Great Steam Time Machine", published in an anthology, *Resurrection Engines*, out of Great Britain. Other stories in other anthologies: "This Other Place" in *Gears and Levers I: A Steampunk Anthology* edited by Phyllis Irene Radford, who also has bought another story for an upcoming anthology. More work to appear later this year.

Bruce Taylor

#### 1973

As of February 23, 2013, yours truly has a feature presence in the online international

literary journal *Stone Telling*. Hope you'll read & enjoy: <http://stonetelling.com>.

Some background info: Seattle's 4Culture contributed to the initial funding of my poetry chapbook *Promised Lands* (reviewed in *Stone Telling* 9 by Lebanese-Canadian writer Amal El-Mohtar). Eileen Gunn, fellow conspirator and wordsmith innovator, has a JTS/Aqueduct Press connection; she wrote a review of my chapbook for its quarterly *Cascadia Subduction Zone* feature (April 2012) and read my poetry at WisCon. You can see the poems in *The Moment of Change: An Anthology of Speculative Poetry*, edited by Rose Lemberg (Aqueduct Press, Spring 2012).



In October 2012, Marilyn Holt, Vonda McIntyre and I received certificates for co-founding CW in 1984. Mine says, "In recognition of the INCALUABLE good resulting from the perpetration by JT Stewart of the CLARION WEST WRITERS WORKSHOP beginning in the year 1984, we present this certificate in recognition of her initiative, creativity, perseverance, fortitude, and utter brilliancy."

In the spring, I will be reading at the Hedgebrook Writers 25th Anniversary celebration at Seattle's Town Hall, with featured poet Carolyn Forché. I will also be teaching a poetry class for fiction writers at Hugo House with Eileen Gunn called *Crossing the Danger Water*, which is based on the optional CW poetry workshop we've been teaching for the past five years. (The one exception includes the summer David Hartwell "subbed" for Eileen.)

And in May, my work appears in another Aqueduct Press anthology, *Strange Matings: Science Fiction, Feminism, African*

*American Voices and Octavia E. Butler*, edited by Dr. Rebecca Holden and Nisi Shawl.

JT Stewart

#### 1984

I just got back from a two-day excursion to Washington, D.C., where I was very pleased to deliver a lecture on movie novelizations and media tie-ins at the Library of Congress! Needless to say, this was quite a thrill — and I even managed to score a personal tour of the LOC after my talk, which seemed to be well-received.

Meanwhile, I'm keeping busy on the writing front, with three new books coming out this spring: a new *Star Trek* novel, a *Leverage* novel (based on the TV series), and the novelization of the new Superman movie, *Man of Steel*. Coming up next: another Trek novel, tentatively titled *No Time Like the Past*.

## a lecture on movie novelizations and media tie-ins at the Library of Congress!

Regarding the question of the hour, since my class was way back in '84, we didn't have many traditions to carry on, but I think I still have my Clarion T-shirt around somewhere...

Greg Cox

#### 1989

My science fiction novel *Guardian of Night* came out in paperback in March from Baen. My *Star Trek* original series novel, *Devil's Bargain*, also debuted in March from Pocket. It has a big ole profile of a red Spock on the cover looking pensive. My post-galactic apocalypse novel *The Heretic*, co-authored with David Drake, ▶▶

► comes out in hardcover in April from Baen. I've signed contracts to do a sequel to *The Heretic*, which is itself an entry in the old General series by Drake and S.M. Stirling. This one will be called *The Savior*.

## don't gut me with a scythe

Might have to put in a crucifixion and resurrection scene to match the title — or maybe just a scene from a writing workshop session gone horribly awry. Finally, I'm starting work on a solo project of my own that may involve Viking raids on the unprotected English coastline so I can get the period flavor right. I will be wearing a big orange vest that says RESEARCHER, so don't gut me with a scythe if you happen to be a monk on the defensive.

Tony Daniel

### 1991

I stopped writing sf in 2005 and went to work running a CNC machine at a granite shop with guys who were so outrageous, I could not make them up. Then went to massage school in 2007–8 and have had my own business since then. I've been training in craniosacral therapy the past two years and love it. The more I learn, the weirder it gets, which suits me just fine. I applied my writing skills to a case study in school, which won a national award and was published in a peer-reviewed journal. Woot! Haven't written anything since then.

Mini-Bob, who was born a few months after CW, is now 21 and a junior in college. Wow. I'm just glad that *I'm* not getting any older!!! My website is <http://www.amyhansonmassage.com>; personal email still [selenite@harbornet.com](mailto:selenite@harbornet.com).

Amy Axt Hanson

### 1992

After a hiatus of nearly two decades, I'm resuming research for a non-fiction project about the Austin A. Bell Building in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood.

Holly Wade Matter

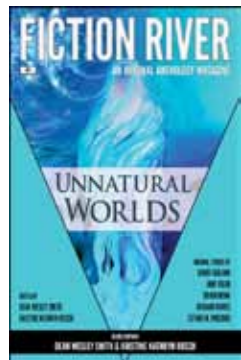
### 1996

In mid-February 2013, Tiny Satchel Press released my first YA novel, *Bereft*. It's a brief novel about the effects of bullying on a 14-year-old gay African American. While not genre fiction, *Bereft* does allude to sf and fantasy literature — the protagonist is a nerd and bookworm!

Bonding experiences at Clarion West 1996? Let's see... I recall the group dinners we did. I remember the hepatitis scare at the local IHOP (aka IHEP). And I remember the female contingent of the class wrote a story that spoofed all of the men's stories. There was a class T-shirt, but unfortunately it's been lost during a couple of moves.

Craig Laurance Gidney

### 1997



I've recently sold three short stories: "The Curious Case of Rabbit and the Temple Goddess" to *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, publish date unknown; "Fox and Hound" to the anthology *Hex and the City*, which will

be published in July, and "Sister" to the anthology *Unnatural Worlds*, which will be published in April.

I've been indie-publishing my long fiction. I have also republished my backlist, the novels that were originally published by Roc. I will have a new novel coming out in August, called *The Guardian Hound*. It's a sequel to my most recent novel, *The Raven and the Dancing Tiger*.

I live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Seattle; I adore this neighborhood so much. I still have a day job in CA, and I telecommute. I also have the requisite cat as well as numerous shelves covered in books.

Leah Cutter

### 1998



Here's something I remember fondly from the Clarion West class of 1998: George R. R. Martin asked us all to stretch ourselves and write a novella in two days rather than just another short story. I did so.

When it came time to critique the story, every one of my classmates claimed that either they didn't read it because they were too busy or that they couldn't get past page three. Dutifully, I wrote down all their comments in my notebook. Looking back, two lines stick out.

"Something must be really wrong on page 3, but nobody is saying what." And "Oh my god! Not even George read it!"

However, right after I wrote that line, George confessed that the whole thing was a setup. Everyone had read it, but they had all agreed in advance to pretend they didn't. To George's credit, just before he

## Something must be really wrong on page 3

fessed up, what he said was, "I'm sorry. I can't do this." The group went on to provide an excellent analysis of the tale. I'll never forget my friends from '98.

My novel credits: *Bull's Labyrinth* (March 2013, IFD Publications), *How I Met My Alien Bitch Lover: Book 1 of the Sunny World Inquisition* (Daily Letter Archives, 2012, IFD Publications), *Beyond the Serpent's Heart* (2011, IFD Publications).

And my short fiction credits: "Bosque Circular" and "The Cell Door Opens" in *Short Story America III* (2013); "Lost Island Story Hour", *Short Story America II* (2012); and "Circus Circus", *Circus: Fantasy Under the Big Top*, edited by Ekaterina Sedia (Prime Books, Oct. 2012).

Eric M. Witchey

## ► 2000

It's been a busy few months for me. I have a new website at <http://daviddlevine.com>; I have released my award-winning short story collection, *Space Magic*, as an eBook through Book View Café; and I have produced a 15-minute video of my story "Letter to the Editor" from John Joseph Adams anthology *The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination* (<http://youtu.be/Nk-OuPyILWx0>), which has been very well received. I'm also working on an audiobook of *Space Magic*, hoping for a release in June or thereabouts.

Since attending CW, I have sold over 50 short stories and dozens of reprints. I have two completed novels out seeking a publisher; a third in first draft awaiting revision; and am currently drafting a fourth, a Regency YA interplanetary airship adventure. Notable recent and upcoming

## In 2000, we didn't play Thing

publications include "The Last Days of the Kelly Gang" in anthology *Armored*, edited by John Joseph Adams (March 2012); "Liaisons Galantes: A Scientific Romance" in webzine *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* #108 (November 2012); "Letter to the Editor" in anthology *The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination*, edited by John Joseph Adams (February 2013); "Wavefronts of History and Memory" in *Analog* (June 2013); "The Wreck of the Mars Adventure" in anthology *Old Mars*, edited by Gardner Dozois and George R. R. Martin (October 2013); and "Cry Wolf" in *Lowball*, the next Wild Cards book, edited by George R. R. Martin and Melinda M. Snodgrass (forthcoming sometime in 2013).

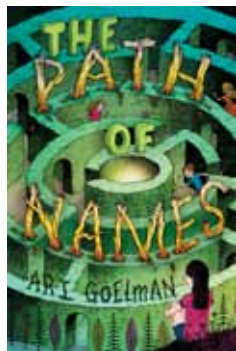
In 2000, we didn't play Thing (I don't think that Mafia variant had been invented yet), and though we did play Mafia at some parties, it wasn't a constant for us the way it has been for some classes. To relax, we watched *Darla* and *Veggie Tales*, went on Jamba Juice runs, and engaged in frequent water-gun fights that, in

one memorable case, escalated to simply dumping large quantities of water on each other. The carpet in the hallway was still squishy a day later. We gave each of our instructors a stuffed animal, modified in some way to reflect that instructor and the week's lessons.

You can see my pictures from CW, including the stuffed animals and water fight, at <http://bentopress.com/clarion/miscpix/> (the "high-res" versions of each picture are 640x480 — how technology has changed in just thirteen years!).

David D. Levine

## 2001



My MG fantasy debut, *The Path of Names*, is forthcoming from Scholastic on May 1, 2013. (Pretty close to the day you're reading this newsletter, I'm guessing.) *The Path of Names* got its start as my week

5 story at CW. It's changed a lot since then, but I believe my classmates (with very good memories) will recognize some key elements. Find more at <http://www.arigoelman.com>.

Ari Goelman

This is probably my most exciting year in writing since CW. My first two novels have been accepted for publication by Christy Ottaviano Books (a Macmillan imprint). They are both middle grade fantasy (or steampunk or science fiction, depending on how you look at them). The first one, *Secrets of the Dragon Tomb*, is set on Mars in 1816, and involves lots of adventure, a fair amount of humor, and as many ridiculous ideas as I could fit in. The second one is a sequel which doesn't yet have a title, because it hasn't yet been written...

This last year or so I've also become a freelance web designer and eBook designer. Most of my eBook work so far has been designing covers and formatting

eBooks for writers re-releasing their back catalogue. You can find out more about my business at <http://www.50secondsnorth.com>.

Patrick Samphire

## 2002

My 2008 *Strange Horizons* publication, "Kip, Running", has just appeared in the new Prime Books anthology *Future Games*, out this past January.

I also launched a radio drama-style podcast that I've been co-writing with my friend Ray Snyder, titled *The Hermes & Hekate Road Show*. It's available at <http://hbroadshow.libsyn.com> and also on iTunes, and fans are welcome to join us at our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/HermesHekateRoadShow>.

This spring also marks my second semester as a student in the Stonecoast MFA program in Popular Fiction at the University of Southern Maine, the faculty of which includes Liz Hand and Jim Kelly. It's been a great experience so far and I'm learning a lot.

Genevieve Williams

## 2004

Our class had a tradition of people dying. Not really, of course, but over the

## I met my own death when a bowl of oatmeal happened to explode.

course of the six weeks most everyone had some sort of incident after which it was determined that they were dead. Some of these incidents involved sharks and/or dreams, maybe dreams of sharks, I can't remember. I met my own death when a bowl of oatmeal happened to explode. When I took the bowl out of the microwave, the plate that I had covered it with was stuck on top, and I tried to pry it off with a spoon. Maybe I pried a little ►►

► too hard. I was covered in oatmeal, as was Darja Malcolm-Clarke, who was standing nearby. It was my death, but not Darja's. I forget how Darja died. An epitaph was written for me, which I still remember:

He went to the kitchen  
For breakfast to forage,  
And was killed in a blast  
Of exploding porridge.

I also remember an epitaph that I composed for Debbie Smith, who was almost run over by an SUV as she crossed the road and consequently pronounced dead:

"Be careful in traffic!"  
Her boyfriend implored her;  
She died under the wheels  
Of a Ford Explorer.

I'm still rather proud of that.

My personal news: I'm spending the spring semester as writer in residence at Bard College in upstate New York. They gave me a house and some money and basically no duties. It's nice. Maybe a little lonely. Everyone should come visit!

I had a longish short story, "The Elephant Token", in *Unstuck 2* this winter, and another, "The Perfumer", in *The Cincinnati Review*. The litmag I publish, *Birkensnake*, is running a complicated multiple-guest-editor scheme that I won't go into here, but *Birkensnake* fans can read about it on our website. I'm working on ... a novella? about robot ghosts? Something like that.

Brian Conn

My first novel, *Necessary Ill*, came out this spring from Aqueduct Press to starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and the *Library Journal*. Amid and beyond that excitement, I'm freelance editing a little more than full time for large and small presses and independent authors. I'm still awed that I get to make my living reading (and occasionally writing) fiction.

Deb Taber

## 2005

I'm thrilled and honored that my first novel, *Fair Coin*, is a finalist for both the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy,

presented by SFWA, and the Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Award for best first SF/fantasy/horror novel of the year, presented by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society.

Eugene Myers

I'm running again for SFWA vice president in 2013–14. My novelette "Portrait of Lisane da Patagnia" has been nominated for the Nebula Award for Best Novelette. I have short stories recently published or forthcoming in John Joseph Adams' *Oz: Reimagined* and *Apex Magazine*.

Rachel Swirsky

## 2006

I remember having a lot of fun with the instructor gifts. My favorite one was the two-headed kitty we presented to Ellen Datlow. It was re-sewn from two stuffed cats — I think by Julie McGalliard? — and looked suitably odd. And voila! The doodle I made of it week 5. I'm really



pleased to say that my debut fantasy novel with Tor, *Ironskin*, was nominated for a Nebula! I'm excited to go to the ceremony in San Jose — I've never been. Tor also picked up two more books from me: *Ironskin #3*, and a quirky YA called *Seriously Wicked*, about a girl whose guardian is a wicked witch. So it's been an exciting year so far.

In April, I'll be reading at the SFWA PNW reading series with Mary Robinette Kowal and Nisi Shawl: April 23rd in

Seattle, April 24th in Portland. Looking forward to that!

Tina Connolly

My novelette, "Super-Earth Mother," will be published in the *Extreme Planets* anthology: <http://extremeplanetsanthology.com>.

My nonfiction eBook, *Ancient Egypt's Lost Legacy? The Buduma Culture of Lake Chad*, is available for iPad at the Apple iBooks Store.

I have been invited by the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities to give a talk about the Buduma people. See <http://tinyurl.com/cjdc4z9> and the attached photo of me with a papyrus boat from Lake Chad.



Guy Immega

## 2008

I'd like to announce that my novel, *The Birthday Problem*, will be published by Pink Narcissus Press in summer 2014: In the year 2060, the next plague has arrived. MaGo bots, the nanotechnology used for everything from fighting the common cold to radical life extension, have begun to malfunction, latching onto the brain's acetylcholine receptors to cause a permanent state of delirium. The effects are devastating.

*The Birthday Problem* follows four Seattle survivors and how their lives irrevocably intersect: Chaaya Gopal Lee, great-granddaughter of the MaGo programmer, whom the pandemic turns into a killer; 40-something ex-rock star and pharmacy technician Greystone Toussaint, the "King of Seattle"; Alastair Gomez-Larsen, forced ►

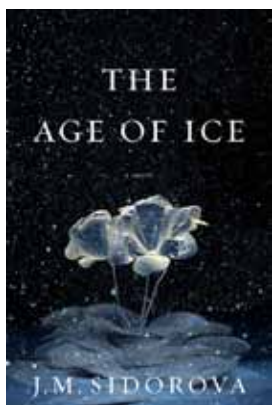
► to become a blood-smuggler to treat his father's liver disease; and Didi VanNess, a lovesick former-WNBA center and CNA, who tries to win back her wife's heart against a backdrop of madness, death and thirty cats, all named Ira.

Exploring themes of perception, probability, and redemption, *The Birthday Problem* is told from multiple points-of-view, moving back and forth in time, and the characters struggle to find their places in a — literally — mad world.

More information will be available, as it happens, on my website: <http://www.spitkitten.com>.

Caren Gussoff

## 2009



My most important news this spring is the upcoming release of my debut novel, *The Age of Ice* (due in stores in late July this year). *The Age of Ice* is a novel that is in equal parts historical and magical

realism, written as a memoir of a Russian nobleman whose unusually long life has been powered by his intimate relationship with ice and cold. The story begins in 1740 in St. Petersburg, Russia, in a historical ice palace that Empress Anna Ioannovna had ordered built as at once an exhibit, a party hall, a bridal chamber, and a prison for two of her misfortunate jesters.

I started writing the novel in 2006 and finished the first draft by 2009; the novel then spent two years in revision and was bought by Scribner in January 2012. After another year of work I can finally hold the actual book (or rather the uncorrected proofs, at this stage) in my hands, and I begin to believe that this is actually, possibly, likely, happening for real. Not to mention — I LOVE the cover art!

Julia Sidorova

I have two stories out this spring. “The Taking Tree” will appear in *Daily Science Fiction* and “Melt With You” is in *Clarkesworld* ([http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/skaftun\\_04\\_13/](http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/skaftun_04_13/)).

Emily C. Skaftun

## 2010



I've had two novels published in the last year. One is a YA adventure fantasy called *The Assassin's Curse*, put out by Strange Chemistry in October 2012.

The sequel will be published in June 2013.

The other is an adult science fiction novel called *The Mad Scientist's Daughter* that was released by Angry Robot in January 2013.

I signed a two-book deal with Strange Chemistry for a new duology set in the same world as *The Assassin's Curse*. The first book, *The Wizard's Promise*, will be released in 2014, and the second book, *The Nobleman's Revenge*, will follow in 2015.

Cassandra Clarke

## 2011

I've sold a few stories to literary magazines this year. My flash piece “Traffic Jam” was published in *SpringGun*, and my story “Libration” will appear in *Booth* in August. I was also excited to place third in the Southern Writers Symposium Emerging Writers Contest for 2013. This summer I will be at Kij Johnson's Novel Workshop, and I'm looking forward to my first residential writing workshop since graduating from Clarion West.

Jenni Moody

## 2012

In December 2012, JJA bought “Breathless in the Deep”, my week 6 CW story, for *Lightspeed* (forthcoming). In January 2013:

- The first new short story I wrote after the workshop, “Midnight at the Feet of the Caryatides”, sold to a pro-paying

anthology from Lethe Press called *Where Thy Dark Eye Glances: Queering Edgar Allan Poe* (forthcoming)

- I sold a reprint of my Strange Horizons story, “My Dignity in Scars”, to Podcastle, and it's available now: <http://tinyurl.com/cpgmzp5>
- Paula Guran solicited a story from me for *Once Upon A Time: New Fairy Tales* and accepted “Castle of Masks” (forthcoming)

And in February 2013, Guran also chose “Sinking Among Lilies”, originally published in *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, for *The Year's Best Dark Fantasy and Horror 2013* (forthcoming); that same story was on the 2012 Online Locus Recommended Reading List.

Cory Skerry

## INSTRUCTORS



I've taught at Clarion West twice, once in the mid-to-late 1990s and again in the summer of 2010. I had two books out in 2012, *The Door Gunner and Other Perilous Flights of Fancy: A Michael Bishop Retrospective* (Subterranean Press), edited by Michael H. Hutchins (the title is a finalist in the Georgia Author of the Year awards for 2012 in the short story collection category), and a reprint edition of *Brittle Innings* (Fairwood Press), lightly revised, with a special introduction by Elizabeth Hand and a dynamic new cover by Paul Swenson.

My only other news, apart from the fact that last May I retired as writer-in-residence at LaGrange College, is that this May, my wife, Jeri, and I will travel to Italy, where I'll be the literary guest of honor at Italcon 39, to be held in Bellaria on the eastern flank of the Italian boot, between May 23 and May 26.

Michael Bishop, '97, '10



► I'm now acquiring short stories for Tor.com. *Queen Victoria's Book of Spells: An Anthology of Gaslamp Fantasy*, co-edited with Terri Windling, recently was published by Tor. *Hauntings* (an all-reprint anthology) recently was published by Tachyon. *The Best Horror of the Year Volume Five* will be out soon from Night Shade.

I recently funded an all original horror anthology titled *Fearful Symmetries* via Kickstarter. ChiZine, a Canadian independent publisher, will be publishing it in 2014.

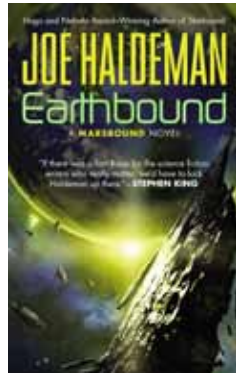
I'll be teaching CW (the last week) this summer.

*Ellen Datlow, '91, '96, '01, '06, '10*

We are the joint Writer Guests of Honor at Westercon 66 from July 4–7 in Sacramento, CA. Westercon is the longest-running general science fiction convention in Western North America, and promises a packed few days of panels, interviews, readings, and conversations in the bar. And

it's the 30th anniversary of Clarion West (and the 25th anniversary of our Clarion class of 1988)! We're hoping for a Clarion West/Clarion panel and a party for any alum, supporter, or aspiring student at the con, and we'd love to see you there! More information at <http://www.westercon66.org>.

*Kelley Eskridge, '07, and Nicola Griffith, '97*



Joe's book *Earthbound* is out in paperback. It's the final book in his trilogy, with *Marsbound* and *Starbound*. On March 31, *The Best of Joe Haldeman* collection, edited by Jonathan Strahan and Gary Wolfe,

will be out from Subterranean Press.

*Joe and Gay Haldeman, '02*

Have you moved? Do you have a new e-mail address? Please send your new address and contact information to [7thweek-pdf@clarionwest.org](mailto:7thweek-pdf@clarionwest.org) so you don't miss an issue of *The Seventh Week*! Or mail your address change to: Clarion West, P.O. Box 31264, Seattle, WA 98103-1264

Send in your updates for the Alumni News section of the Clarion West website! Recent publications, upcoming readings, interviews — if you have writing-related news, we want to hear about it. E-mail your latest news to [cwAlumniNews@gmail.com](mailto:cwAlumniNews@gmail.com). Please use the subject "Alumni News," and be sure to include the year you attended CW. ♦



Henry Lien ('12) relaxes with CW administrator Neile Graham.

2003 instructor Chip Delany speaks to students with CW mascot Luke comfortably settled on his lap.



Instructor Maureen McHugh and her husband, Bob Yeager, enjoy a quiet moment together at the Clarion West Friday night party at Susan Gossman's house.



On the last day of the workshop, K.C. Ball ('10) presents instructor Ian McDonald with a faux movie poster created by Erik Owomoyela called "River of Gods Meets Sesame Tree".

Instructor Octavia E. Butler answers questions at her reading in 2005.



2011 instructor Margo Lanagan laughs with student Jack Nicholls ('11). Photo by fellow student Maria Romasco-Moore.