



# MFA in Creative Writing

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## Our Faculty

**Lead Faculty** of the MCW program, **Frank Montesonti** holds an MFA from the University of Arizona. He is the author of two books of poetry: *Blight, Blight, Blight*, *Ray of Hope* (winner of the 2012 Barrow Street Book Contest), and *Hope Tree* (Black Lawrence Press, 2013). His poems have appeared in such journals as *Black Warrior Review*, *AQR*, *Cream City Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Lit*, among many others. He oversees the poetry and pedagogy classes and coordinates the student literary journal the *GNU*. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to email him at [fmontesonti@nu.edu](mailto:fmontesonti@nu.edu).

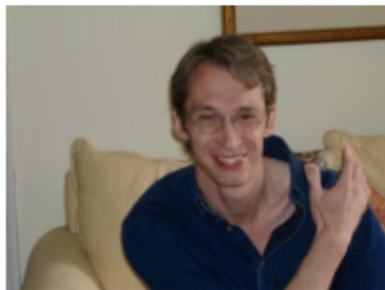


**Aamina Ahmad** grew up in London and holds degrees from University College London and Goldsmith's College London in English and Television Drama respectively. Her MFA in Fiction was completed at the Iowa Writers' Workshop where she was a Teaching Writing Fellow. She worked for the BBC World Service Drama Team before becoming a television script editor on a number of long running prime time dramas for the BBC, ITV and other independent production companies. Her credits include *Eastenders*, *The Bill*, and *Hustle*. As a writer she has been selected to take part in a number of development programs including Arista's Scribes (feature film development), the UK Film Council's Blank Slate scheme (short films) and Critical Mass at the Royal Court Theatre. Her full length play, *Still Life*, is, at present, in development with Kali Theatre Company. Her short fiction can be found in the anthology, *And the World Changed*, *The South Asian Review* and *The Normal School*.

**Amanda Ackerman** is the author of four chapbooks: *Sin is to Celebration* (co-author, House Press), *The Seasons Cemented* (Hex Presse), *I Fell in Love with a Monster Truck* (Insert Press), and *Short Stones* (Dancing Girl Press). She co-publishes and co-edits the press eohippus labs. Her writing has been published in a variety of publications including *WestWind Review*, *The Incongruous Quarterly*, *Shearsman Magazine*, *Joyland Retro Vol. 2 Anthology*, and *The Encyclopedia Project: Volume F-K*. Her book *The Book of Feral Flora* is forthcoming from Les Fignes press.



**Peter Bricklebank** has published fiction in such as *The American Voice*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Mid-American Review*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Confrontation*, *Fiction*, and nonfiction in *The New York Times Book Review*, *the American Book Review*, *The Chicago Tribune*. His chapter on writing essay and memoir appears in *The Portable MFA* (Writers Digest Books). He has received a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship in fiction and been a panelist for the BRIO awards for the Bronx Council of the Arts. He has taught private writing workshops in NYC and in Oaxaca and Morelia (Mexico) and at New York University and elsewhere, including a year as Nonfiction writer-in-residence at Central Connecticut State University. Recent nonfiction appears in the inaugural issue of *Two Bridges Review* (see <http://2bridgesreview.blogspot.com/>). He taught fiction and nonfiction at Bar-Ilan University in Israel in summer 2012 and taught at the Festival of Writers, Rensselaerville, New York in August 2013.



**Amina Cain** is the author of two collections of stories: *Creature* (2013) and *I Go To Some Hollow* (2009). Her writing has appeared in *BOMB*, *n+1*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Puerto del Sol*, *The Paris Review Daily*, and other places. She lives and works in Los Angeles. [acain@nu.edu](mailto:acain@nu.edu)



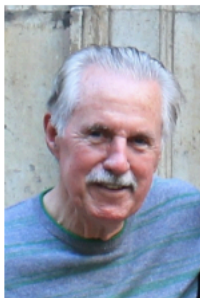


**Colin Dickey** is the author of *Cranioklepty: Grave Robbing and the Search for Genius*, and *Afterlives of the Saints: Stories from the Ends of Faith*, both from Unbridled Books. His work has appeared in *Cabinet*, *The Santa Monica Review*, and *TriQuarterly*, among other places. He is the co-editor (with Nicole Antebi and Robby Herbst) of *Failure! Experiments in Aesthetic and Social Practices*.

[cdickey@nu.edu](mailto:cdickey@nu.edu) Great news about Dr. Dickey's new book: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/book-deals/article/64851-book-deals-week-of-november-24-2014.html>

**Brandi Megan Granett** holds an MFA in Fiction from Sarah Lawrence College and a Masters in Adult Education with an emphasis on Distance Education from Penn State University. Granett's first story was published in the third grade, and she looks forward to maintaining the tradition of publication until she is 95. Her first novel, *My Intended*, was published in Spring 2000 by Eagle Brook/Morrow. Her second novel, *Floater*, was published in Spring 2006 by Blast Press. Her short fiction can be found in *Pebble Lake Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Pleiades* and *Folio* among others. When she is not writing or teaching or mothering, she is honing her archery skills as the New Jersey State Adult Female FITA Recurve Champion.

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John Coyne is the author of 26 books of fiction and non-fiction, including several bestsellers. His novel, *The Legacy*, was a successful film starring Sam Elliott. His short stories have been included in "best of" anthologies, such as *Modern Masters of Horror* and *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*. His most recent book is a novel, *Love Ago and Far Away*, a love story set in Africa, Europe and the United States that spans 40 years. He has also published three novels on golf and edited three books of golf instruction. A former college professor and college dean at the State University of New York, he has written three books on alternatives to traditional college education. His articles have appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Glamour*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Redbook*, among other magazines. Currently, he is organizing for National University the new Peace Corps Cohort.



**Bryan Hurt** holds a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. His stories and essays have appeared in *The American Reader*, *Connu*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Joyland*, *New England Review*, *Salt Hill*, *Tikkun*, *Tin House*, and *TriQuarterly*. His work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and his story collection was recently named a finalist for Black Lawrence Press's Hudson Prize. He is the co-editor (with Amaranth Borsuk and Genevieve Kaplan) of *The Loudest Voice* anthology.



**Marci Rae Johnson** teaches English at Valparaiso University, where she serves as Poetry Editor for *The Cresset*. She is also the Poetry Editor for WordFarm press. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *The Collagist*, *Hobart*, *Redivider*, *Redactions*, *Books & Culture*, *The Valparaiso Poetry Review*, *The Louisville Review*, *The Christian Century*, and *32 Poems*, among others. Her first collection of poetry won the Powder Horn Prize and was published by Sage Hill Press in 2013.

**Cheryl Klein** is the author of *Lilac Mines* (Manic D Press, 2009) and *The Commuters*, which won City Works Press' Ben Reitman Award and was published in 2006. Her fiction has appeared in *The Normal School*, *Other*, and the anthologies *Jane's Stories III* (Jane's Stories Press) and *Hunger and Thirst* (City Works Press). She directs the California office of Poets & Writers, Inc., and previously co-edited the online queer fiction magazine *Bliethe House Quarterly*. She received her MFA in writing from California Institute of the Arts, and has taught creative writing to homeless youth, high school girls, and teen boys in the criminal justice system. She lives in Los Angeles and online at [www.cheryl-klein.com](http://www.cheryl-klein.com).



**Lee Pendleton** holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts (fiction). He has published more than 20 books. Writing as Lee Thomas, he is the author of the novels *Stained* (House of Dominion Press, 2004), winner of the Bram Stoker Award, *The Dust of Wonderland* (Alyson Books, 2007), winner of the Lambda Literary Award, *The German* (Lethe Press, 2011), also a Lambda Literary Award winner, as well as a finalist for several other awards. His short fiction has been collected into the books *In the Closet, Under the Bed* (Dark Scribe Press, 2009), and *Like Light for Flies* (Lethe Press, 2013), and has been anthologized extensively, most notably in *A Walk on the Dark Side* (Roc Books, 2004), *Inferno* (Tor Books, 2009), *Supernatural Noir* (Dark Horse Books, 2011), *Best Gay Stories 2010* (Lethe Press, 2010), and *Best Horror of the Year, Volume 6* (Night Shade Press, 2014). Writing as Thomas Pendleton he has authored several young adult novels, including *Mason* (HarperCollins, 2009), and the *Wicked Dead* series of thrillers, co-authored with Stefan Petrucha (HarperCollins, 2007).



**Amarnath Ravva** has an MFA in Creative Writing/Integrated Media from Calarts and a BA in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley. He is currently working on a book about Victorian era botanical expeditions called *The Glass House*. His first book, *American Canyon*, was published by Kaya Press in 2014.

**Michael Rerick** earned his PhD in English and Comparative Literature from the University of Cincinnati and an MFA in Poetry from the University of Arizona. He is the author of the poetry collections *In Ways Impossible to Fold* (Marsh Hawk Press), *X-Ray* (Flying Guillotine Press), and *morefrom* (Alice Blue Press). Recent work appears at *Coconut*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *H\_NGM\_N*, *Indefinite Space*, *MadHat*, *Ping Pong* and *Tarpaulin Sky*. He teaches composition, literature, and creative writing.

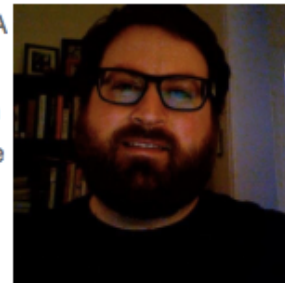


**Seth Sherwood** holds a BFA in design and photography, an MFA in creative writing and an AA in film production. This triple threat set of credentials has led to a career of telling stories through words, or pictures, or both. With an extensive background in print design, he has created ad campaigns for cultural icons such as Ryan Seacrest, Nikki Sixx, and Jesse Jackson, as well as motion-graphics for commercials and music videos. In addition to creating treatments for film and TV, he writes independent comic books, web shorts and pilots, and screenplays. When he is not telling stories professionally, he is recounting them with great exaggeration to his six-year-old. He grew up in Portland and Seattle, but currently lives in Los Angeles.



**Jeffrey Stephenson** is a highly acclaimed, award-winning writer and director whose work has been distributed worldwide. His feature film, *Not Since You*, sold to over 65 countries and was released by Warner Bros. before premiering on Showtime Network. His latest feature film, *Bank\$tas*, was released day-and-date in theaters across the United States and on VOD in November 2014. Writing credits include *Trial By Fire* for Lifetime Network that was released by Millennium Entertainment as *Smoke Jumper*. Documentary credits include working with Tom Cruise on the narration for *Industrial Light & Magic: Creating The Impossible* that Jeff co-wrote and co-edited for Starz Network. He also co-wrote and directed the Gemini Award (Canadian Emmy) nominated *Hamlet {Solo}* for Bravo! Network as well as directing *Flyerman* (Toronto International Film Festival) and *Bellini's Drive* (Vancouver International Film Festival). Jeff holds a BFA in Film Production from York University in Toronto, Canada and an MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

**Andrew Terhune** holds a BA in English from Union University, an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College Chicago, an MA in Cinema Studies from Savannah College of Art & Design, and a PhD in English – Screen Studies/Creative Writing from Oklahoma State University. He is the author of the chapbook *Helen Mirren Picks Out My Clothes* (Greying Ghost Press) and his work has appeared in *Meridian*, *Sixth Finch*, *West Wind Review*, *Diagram*, and *Court Green*. He currently works as the creative executive for an independent film production company based in Memphis and Los Angeles.





**David Womack** received his B.S. from UC Irvine (Economics 1987) and his M.F.A. from UC Riverside (Creative Writing 2005). David spent two years teaching Creative Writing at UC Riverside. From 2002-03 he worked for EmTV and Constantine films in Germany, rewriting and polishing translated screenplays. David's screenplay *The Metamorphosis* won the Screenwriting Award at the 2006 Riverside International Film Festival and was a semifinalist in the 2006 Slamdance Screenwriting Competition. His short play *Riding in the Dually* won first prize in the 50/50 Script Competition. The play was also staged at UC Riverside's Playworks Festival. David's short films have been screened in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Port Townsend and Phoenix. His films also won various prizes from the World Population Film Festival, the Nomad Film/Video Festival and the Orange County Fair. In 2007, Menasha Ridge Press published David's book *Mountain Biking! Orange County*. David is a former member of the Metropolitan Theatre Group in North Hollywood and a current member of the New Voices Theatre Group in Irvine. [Davidwomack99@gmail.com](mailto:Davidwomack99@gmail.com)



**Michael Zimmer** is a writer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. He has developed feature screenplay and television projects with multiple production companies, and he co-directed and produced an award-winning feature documentary, *The Entertainers*, about the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. His fiction has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Pithead Chapel*, *Crack the Spine*, *Spelk*, *Linden Avenue Literary Journal*, and Akashic Books' *Mondays Are Murder*. [mzimmer@nu.edu](mailto:mzimmer@nu.edu)

