

## Dear Friends of the Writers House,

One week into September, we embarked on something entirely new. Our free and open online course on modern and contemporary American poetry — ModPo, as it's known — launched with an enrollment of 42,000 people from more than 120 countries. The course was based on Al's famous "English 88," a class he has taught for more than 20 years. Through a series of video discussions and live interactive webcasts, led by Al and a trusty band of teaching assistants, the ModPo experiment brought a KWH-style learning mode into homes, offices, and schools around the world.

Now, months after the ten-week MOOC wrapped, we're still in touch with ModPoers from all over, many of whom have traveled great distances to visit us here in Philadelphia, to express their enthusiasm for our space and what we do with it.

First-time visitors to the Writers House this year found numerous opportunities to get involved; our regular programming included discussions about poetry, new media, conceptual art, entrepreneurial journalism, and more. Plenty of our new ModPo friends even pitched in to help us get things done: Andrew Whiteman (of the band Broken Social Scene) and Ariel Engle — known collectively as AroarA — trekked from Montreal to treat us to a performance of their innovative song cycle *In the Pines*, based on Alice Notley's poetry book of the same title. High school student Priya Prabhakar flew in from India to spend several summer weeks with us documenting our vast archive of student projects, including Brodsky Gallery broadsides, Speakeasy anthologies, letterpressed booklets, and handmade maps of our very own KWH. Daniel Bergmann and

his family contributed punningly burnt-up John Ash-berries to our Edible Books party, along with stunningly rendered gingerbread Kindles. Over 100 ModPoers demonstrated their belief in our mission by responding with extraordinary generosity to our annual KWH fundraising campaign.

Indeed, this was the year in which we felt our community truly expand in new and exciting ways, reminding us that, after almost two decades of innovative work, the potential for what we can do here is still nearly limitless.

In the pages of this annual you'll read more about ModPo and several of the other projects that made us proud this year. On pages 16-17 we share news about our expanded outreach to prospective Penn students and the great work of Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), who travels the country to seek out talented young writers. We're excited to tell you about student publications (page 12-13), especially two start-up magazines funded by our Creative Ventures project. Then there's the astounding roster of journalists and nonfiction writers (page 9), who visited us thanks to a permanent endowment established by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung — and, of course, the always-thrilling lineup for the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program (page 10-11), now in its fifteenth year, supported annually by Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present).

We are grateful to all of the people who help make Writers House possible, including the Office of the Provost, the Friends of the Kelly Writers House, alumni, students, Penn parents, Philadelphians — and now, truly, people all over the world.

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, we thank you for everything you bring to this community! ■

**Jessica Lowenthal**  
Director

**Al Filreis**  
Faculty Director  
Kelly Professor of English

THE KELLY  
WRITERS  
HOUSE

Kelly Writers House  
3805 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150  
tel: 215-746-POEM  
fax: 215-573-9750  
email: [wh@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:wh@writing.upenn.edu)  
web: [writing.upenn.edu/wh](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh)



# PEOPLE OF THE WRITERS HOUSE



Left to right: Jack Nessman and Amelia Bentley wear matching outfits; Andrew Beal, Santiago Cortes, and Alli Katz in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen; KWH Hub members Julia Schwartz and Isaac Kaplan. *Opposite page, top and bottom:* alumni memoirists Cynthia Kaplan and James Martin; a session of Write On, our literacy outreach project.

## What's all this talk about the Hub?

From the time of its founding in 1995, the KWH has been run collectively by members of its community. Our intrepid founders — the original group of students, faculty, alumni, staff, and Philadelphians who wanted to create an independent haven for writers and supporters of contemporary writing in any genre — took for themselves the name “the Hub.” To this day, the Writers House Planning Committee refers to itself as “the Hub” and remains the core of volunteers from which the creative vitality of the House radiates. As participant planners, Hub members make it all happen.

It was around our kitchen table that Hub members **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), **Jess Bergman** (C'14), **Isaac Kaplan** (C'15), and **Madeleine Wattenbarger** (C'16) started trading ideas for a blog that would take seriously a deceptively simple form of social media: Twitter. When the *Twit Crit* blog debuted this spring, it offered some thought-provoking writing about the form, including an essay about Twitter as a form of radical pastiche.

For a similarly collaborative blog project, **Arielle Brousse** (C'07, SPP'12) started a Tumblr to explore our collective memory of children's literature. The *Sensible Nonsense* Project collects personal essays about some of our all-time favorite books. For a corresponding *Sensible Nonsense* event at KWH, Arielle invited a handful of contributors to read their essays, including **Victoria Ford** (C'15), who recalled her very own “bad case of stripes” (similar to the trials of lima-bean-loving Camilla Cream) and **Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve** (C'88, W'88), whose enthusiasm for “hullabaloo and romance” surfaced with a second look at *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. KWH Program Coordinator **Alli Katz** and a team of nostalgic student chefs even cooked up after-school snacks for a playful post-program reception.

**Isaac Kaplan** (C'15) convened our very first Writing About Art symposium, which featured seven art aficionados and artists speaking about works by Marcel Duchamp. Presenters included ICA staffers **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) and **Rachel Pastan**, poet **Tom Devaney**, professor **Jean-Michel Rabaté**, printmaker **Henry Steinberg** (C'13), Brodsky Gallery curator **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), and visual artist **Francie Shaw**.

Other projects planned by Hub members this year included: two new print magazines (*Stamped* and *Symbiosis*); a “time bank” for exchanging skills and expertise, started by **Meghna Chandra** (C'13), **Julia Graber** (C'13), **Jun-Youb (“JY”) Lee**, (W'13, C'14), and **Shivani Srivastav** (C'13); a book club led by **Shoshana Akabas** (C'14); a new compost system for our garden (including a dirt giveaway day and potted herbs), managed by **Jenny Chen** (C'14) and **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15); our ongoing *Feminism/s* series, curated by **Arielle Pardes** (C'14) and **Joshua Herren** (C'13); and an edible books party, deliciously imagined by **Michelle Taransky**. And more! This whole booklet, in fact, reflects the efforts of the Hub. Read on! ■

## Alumni involvement

**THROUGH AN ACTIVE** alumni mentorship project, we mobilize our network of accomplished alumni in journalism, marketing, editing, TV production, publishing, and other creative fields, to connect them with students looking for advice about arts and culture beyond Penn. Mentorship coordinator **Mingo Reynolds** (Administrative Director for the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing) arranges for casual informational lunches, formal presentations, and one-on-one visits between mentors and mentees.

This year, inspired by brainstorming sessions with students and young alumni, and with help from KWH Board Member **Cheryl Family** (C'91) and KWH staffer **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), we expanded our Alumni Mentors Program to cultivate a greater number of connections between students and alumni writers. Students seeking advice had plenty of opportunities to interact with alumni mentors such as **Alex Koppelman** (C'05), **Benjamin Crair** (C'07), **Elizabeth Gerst** (C'92) and **Tali Aronsky** (C'97).

## PENNSOUND

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## A day in the life of a Writers House staffer

**A**llison Wattenbarger (C'14) unlocks the front door and looks at the whiteboard art — Virginia Seymour's (C'16) illustration is perfect — before enlisting help from Ayla Fudala (C'16) and Kristie Gadson (C'15) to prep the house for a busy day of projects. Ali Kriegsman (C'13) lurches in (it was a late night with her *a capella* group), grabs a cup of coffee in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, then pops open her Mac to polish up a press release for Dan Fishback's upcoming performance of *thirtynothing*. Josie Elias (C'14), assistant to our Associate Director of Recruitment Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), greets prospective students and their parents at the door and offers to show them around.

Soon the Pub Room's hopping. Anastasiya Shekhtman (C'14) and Madeleine Wattenbarger (C'16) tweak the design on next month's print calendar. Victoria Ford (C'15) drafts a script for our monthly radio show, LIVE at the Writers House. The web team — Jack Nessman (C'15), Zach Carduner (C'13), Ali Castleman (C'13), and Arielle Pardes (C'14) — start slogging through their long fix list. Kenna O'Rourke (C'15) and Green Initiatives Coordinator Jenny Chen (C'14) work out new plans for our herb garden and the ever-growing compost pile. The day's just begun.

The Writers House runs on student power. Undergraduates learn conventional office work here — coffee making and copying, filing and shredding — but they also take the lead on more unusual projects. Student staff negotiate with book distributors and maintain detailed spreadsheets to track sales and returns. They pitch stories about our programs to local journalists and develop creative print campaigns to supplement our email blasts. They act as vigilant stewards of the old cottage and envision new systems to make us more efficient. They propose ambitious and outlandish ideas for the community and participate at all levels of the KWH project.

By early afternoon the house is humming with activity. Purchasing Librarians Erin Peraza (C'14), Santiago Cortes (C'16), and Nadia Laher (C'15) call book distributors to confirm delivery of the books we need. Writing instructors call upon Project Assistant Katie Price (GAS'14) to troubleshoot the tech set-up in their classrooms. Outreach Coordinator Kate Herzlin (C'14) organizes the small mountain of egg cartons, scrap paper, pipe cleaners, and craft supplies she's collected for local, activist puppet theater *SpiralQ*. Habeeb Saura (C'16), assistant to our Financial Coordinator Andrew Beal, pokes his head in all closets and corners — do we have enough paper goods for the week ahead? And Afrah Mohammad (C'16), assistant to our Development Director Arielle Brousse (C'07, SPP'12), double-checks our mailing lists to prep for a special outreach program.

Suddenly it's time to prep for the evening's program (is it really 5:00 PM?), so Program Coordinator Alli Katz rustles up a crack team: Remy Manzi (C'16) and Callie Ward (C'13) snag SEPTA tokens for the daily trek to Trader Joe's (can't forget the stinky Briel!). Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16) tests the microphones and ropes in Max McKenna (C'10) for the sound check, a sweet duet with Alice Godfrey (C'31). Jess Bergman (C'14) and Andie Davidson (C'15) prep a rosemary apricot tart for baking. Josh Herren (C'13) fills the ice bucket (and always remembers to refill the trays), while Dylan Leahy (C'16) takes photos of people arriving for the program. (Afterward, Gwen Lewis (C'14) and Diamond Irwin (C'15) will upload the best pictures to our Flickr account, and Hannah White (C'14) will cull them for our scrapbook). At the end of the night, everyone helps Emily Harnett (C'13) and night manager Peter Schwarz take out the recycling, sweep the floors, close the windows, and turn off the lights. Virginia will set up the white board for tomorrow: another full day at KWH! ■



## Jacket

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Kenna O'Rourke (C'15)

Several alumni writers led special sessions at Writers House. Humor writer Aaron Karo (W'01) charmed a student audience with tales of his varied career, including time spent developing sitcoms. Andrea Kremer (C'80), ESPN's first woman sports reporter, inspired a group of students by sharing stories of her successes in the traditionally male-dominated field. Our ever-popular "Careers in Journalism and New Media" panel, co-sponsored by the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and the alumni behind the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize, once again packed the house with students eager to meet alumni journalists. Panelists this year included Matt Flegenheimer (C'11) of the *New York*

*Times*; Melody Kramer (C'06), formerly of NPR's Fresh Air, now at *National Geographic*; Ruth Davis Konigsberg (C'90), senior editor at *TIME*; Stephen Fried (C'79), professor at Columbia's J-School; and moderator Eliot Kaplan (C'78), executive director of talent acquisition at Hearst Magazines.

Other alumni we were proud to feature at our podium this year included: Grace Ambrose (C'11), Violette Carb (C'11), Ariel Djanikian (C'04), Dan Fishback (C'03), Cynthia Kaplan (C'85), Beth Kephart (C'82), James Martin (C'82), Matt Ocks (C'06), and Caroline Rothstein (C'06).

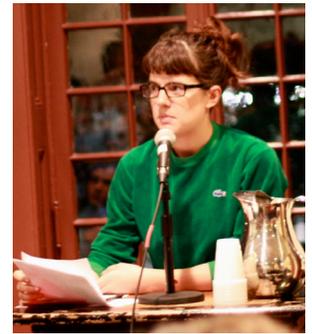
## ArtsEdge Resident: Dan Fishback

Our one-of-a-kind collaboration with Penn's Facilities and Real Estate Services, allows us to offer a year of support to an emerging professional writer. The **ArtsEdge Residency**, which is funded by our Creative Ventures program, comes with a free apartment, studio space in a nearby art collective, and close affiliation with Penn's writing community. ArtsEdge Residents have done extraordinary things here, particularly as mentors: travel writer **Rolf Potts** taught a writing workshop that helped inspire the new student-led travel magazine *Stamped*, slam poet **Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz** deepened our connection with Penn's spoken word community, and playwright **Greg Romero** guided students toward unusual theatrical opportunities in Philadelphia. 2012–13 Resident **Dan Fishback** (C'03) continued this tradition. During his residency, Dan led a series of workshops on solo performance composition, working closely with students as they developed their own performance material. Dan also arranged several events at Penn, including a production of his one-man show *thirtynothing*, which juxtaposes tales from the terrifying dawn of the AIDS epidemic with stories from his own more innocent childhood during those same years.



## Junior Fellow: Grace Ambrose

Each year we honor a recent Penn graduate with the Junior Fellows Prize, to encourage a young alum to stay connected with the KWH community while pursuing an ambitious writing project. This year's Junior Fellow **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) invited fifty people to help her produce an alternative guide to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. When complete, "In Open Letters a Secret Appears: A People's Guide to the Philadelphia Museum of Art" will be a set of fifty postcards that offer experimental responses to art objects at the PMA. The poems and riffs of "In Open Secrets" explore the possibilities of the postcard format as a not-so-secret letter, and Grace actually mailed the lot to emphasize the point. The project officially launched in February with a program at the Writers House: Grace described the mail-art origins of her work and invited poet **CAConrad** to read from his book *A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon*, which features poems that draw inspiration from works of art. Rapt audience members included friends from the ICA and the PMA, fellow alumni, and many of the poets, artists, and musicians who contributed to the project. To view an online version of "In Open Secrets," visit: [secretsappear.tumblr.com](http://secretsappear.tumblr.com).



## Kerry Prize: Kate Herzlin

"To put it succinctly," wrote playwright **Kate Herzlin** (C'14), "the Kerry Prize brought me home." Kate spent her Kerry Prize year developing a collaborative play about the idea of "home" — what it means to have a home, what it means to be homeless, and how we demonstrate compassion for others. Led by Kate, with guidance from mentor playwright **Seth Bauer**, the play was developed through a series of improvisations by actors **Elyssa Edelman** (C'15), **Sarah Middough** (C'14), **Zach Carduner** (C'13), **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), **Lizzy Weingold** (C'16), **Aliyah Harris** (C'16), and **Lauren Nagy** (C'15). Several students also pitched in as transcriptionists: **Hannah Dardashti** (C'15), **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15), and **Lizzy Weingold** (C'16). The KWH proved to be the ideal venue for a play about home and homelessness, and the space itself encouraged theatrical risk-taking. Kate staged scenes simultaneously in multiple rooms of the house, for a truly site-specific show. Our kitchen played a special role: **Alli Katz** and **Andrew Beal** prepared homemade meatloaf for the audience (who doubled as guests at an anniversary celebration).



Top to bottom: ArtsEdge Resident Dan Fishback featured on the cover of *Arts & Culture*; poet CAConrad reading from *A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon*; Seth Bauer and Kate Herzlin (back row, left) pose with the cast of the Kelly Writers Home Project.

## RealArts@PENN Internships

RealArts@PENN Internships offer students real-world experiences working side-by-side with professional writers, editors, and business people at a variety of cultural institutions. We received hundreds of applications this year for our ten paid summer RealArts@PENN internships.



### New York City

Viacom Creative Services: Frida Garza (C'14)  
*Rolling Stone Magazine*: Nina Wolpow (C'14)  
 Shore Fire Media: Samantha Apfel (C'15)  
 The Jewish Museum: Samantha Sharon (C'15)

### Philadelphia

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*: Jun-Youb ("JY") Lee (W'13, C'14)  
*Philadelphia Magazine*: Amanda Wolkin (C'14)

### Los Angeles

Brooklyn Films: Nihaar Sinha (C'14)  
 Original Film: Jake Lasker (W'14)  
 David Stern & Stuart Gibbs: Danny Eisenberg (C'14)  
 Nickelodeon Animation Studios: Faryn Pearl (C'14)

## Bassini Apprenticeships

Now in its seventh year, the **Bassini Apprenticeship Program** gives aspiring student writers hands-on access to the day-to-day work of professionals. Bassini Writing Apprentices get a crash course in the work necessary for sustaining and completing serious writing projects, including archival research, complicated permissions requests, phone interviews, rewriting, editing, and more. The master writers, in turn, benefit from energetic student engagement with their work. "Alice returns me to my novel-in-progress," **Beth Kephart** wrote of her apprentice **Alice Ma**. "We think together about what kind of research must fuel a novel like this one, what questions must be answered, and how truth becomes fiction of an engaging but authentic sort."

### TOP SECRET ROCK RESEARCH

Jess Bergman (C'14) & Anthony DeCurtis

As a busy editor and culture critic based primarily in New York, **Anthony DeCurtis** juggles a huge variety of projects, often on short notice. **Jess Bergman** jumped right into the fray by helping Anthony prepare for public interviews with Roger McGuinn (founding member of the Byrds) and rapper Eve (from Philly!), among others. Jess also worked on materials for the oral history project at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and clocked hours on a top secret project about Keith Richards.

### NEUROSCIENCE FICTION

Alice Ma (C'13) & Beth Kephart (C'82)

**Alice Ma** worked with novelist **Beth Kephart** as she began the process of researching and writing her eighteenth book, a novel, as Beth describes it, "about the nature of obsession and a very particular, very rare neurological disorder." Alice dug into Penn archives to look at old *Gazettes* for some of the novel's scene setting. Other research sent her off to discover trends in neuroscience and interview top practitioners in the field. Alice put some of her findings together to produce a case study for the novel (an imagined patient within the world Beth was busy creating), and her research allowed her to offer helpful suggestions about integrating nuanced science into fiction.

### INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Arielle Pardes (C'14) & Sabrina Rubin Erdely (C'94)

**Sabrina Rubin Erdely** is a Contributing Editor for *Rolling Stone*, where she writes long-form feature articles with an investigative bent. As a research-oriented apprentice, **Arielle Pardes** focused on retrieving far-flung information for wildly divergent pieces, including statistics on sexual assault in the military and the total sales at a firearms auction. Arielle also investigated a piece of pornographic Japanese art, dug up court documents and wills, and learned all about the market for high-priced license plates in Abu Dhabi. Other work involved arranging an interview (with Senator Barbara Boxer!), transcribing interview tapes, and helping judge journalism awards. Sabrina is certain Arielle needs a vacation.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Salomon Moreno-Rosa (C'13) & Taije Silverman

**Taije Silverman** offered her apprenticeship as an opportunity to develop and co-teach a writing workshop at *Project H.O.M.E.*, a homelessness outreach program that helps house, educate, and employ thousands of homeless people in Philadelphia every year. Together, Taije and apprentice **Salomon Moreno-Rosa** taught a different selection of poems every week, including work by Nazim Hikmet and Jane Kenyon, among others, and they developed writing exercises based on the selected work. Salomon even led workshops on his own, including a session on Robert Hayden's "Those Winter Sundays."

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## A FAMILY AFFAIR

As befitting its title, this year's **Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program** was practically a family reunion: **Ariel Djanikian** (C'04) daughter of Creative Writing Program Director **Greg Djanikian**, read from her first novel — *The Office of Mercy* — for an audience full of Djanikians, Apples, students, and longtime KWH friends, including Ariel's husband, writer **Phil Sandick** (C'04), whom she met in one of **Max Apple's** famed fiction writing workshops here at KWH. It was a joyous homecoming, though the reading itself explored the darker side of human ambition. Djanikian plunged headfirst into *America-5*, a dystopic underground settlement "the basic shape of a concrete- and lead-enforced flower," where Natasha Wiley has doubts about her prestigious job exterminating renegade tribes. Time permitted only a fleeting glance into this frightening future, partly because we were eager to chat with Djanikian about her literary role models and her writing process (and also to meet baby **Elaina Sandick**, who attended the reading in her daddy's arms).

## BOB LUCID MEMORIAL PROGRAM IN FICTION

"It's just a regular disaster," said **Thomson Guster** (C'10) of *The Flame Alphabet* in his reflective introduction to this year's **Bob Lucid Memorial Program**, a reading by **Ben Marcus**. "It's everywhere, it unfolds very slowly and very obviously, just how they unfold in real life." A quotidian catastrophe seemed imminent here as Marcus wrangled a rogue microphone on our rickety podium and joked, "OK, I can't read." But when he did finally begin to read his work, detailing a dystopian epidemic in which speech becomes a "noxious oral product" to which only children are immune, the possibility of the genuinely catastrophic seemed all too real (it's

a great and terrifying book). Still, the reading didn't lack humor. Marcus interrupted his grim orations several times to mull over choices he'd made in crafting his tale. "I've always hated this character's name," he admitted at one point, soliciting suggestions for a replacement from the audience and rejecting "Judith" in favor of "Richmond." In the question-and-answer session that followed, Marcus discussed his thoughtful approach to teaching creative writing: "I always try to figure out what fantasy the writer has for the piece of writing, like what's the deep desire that isn't being met."

## NONFICTION WRITING

**John Jeremiah Sullivan** held up his cell phone to the mic and played a few seconds of a Michael Jackson demo, a rare audio clip familiar only to those who have gone deep into Jacksonia, well past the discography to the world of decades-old magnetic tape. Rising superstar essayist Sullivan has gone there — and during his much-anticipated visit to KWH he demonstrated the challenge and process of the nonfiction writer: how to sift through such rich layers of detail to reconstruct reality.

At the Writers House we are lucky to have access to a wide range of nonfiction writers — essayists, reporters, critics, memoirists — who generously share their work and expertise with our students. This year, thanks to the Povich Journalism Fund, we heard the amazing work of journalists such as **George Anastasia**, **Mark Bowden**, **Nate Chinen** (C'97), **Jina Moore**, and **Sam Stein**. The Sylvia Kauders Lunch Series brought us **Jonathan Coleman** and **Ryan Lizza**. The RealArts@PENN series, organized and hosted by the well-connected **Anthony DeCurtis**, introduced us to art and culture writers, including **Ada Calhoun**, **Sabrina Erdley**, and **Christian Hoard**, who

showed students how to continue Writers House conversations into the post-Penn world. And this year's homecoming weekend featured fantastic memoirists: **Cynthia Kaplan** (C'85), the author of two essay collections including *Why I'm Like This: True Stories*; **Beth Kephart** (C'82), author of *Handling the Truth*, a book about the making of a memoir (and its consequences); and **James Martin** (C'82), a Jesuit priest and contributing editor at *America*, the national Catholic magazine.

## TWIT CRIT BLOG LAUNCH

The launch event for "a super cool new blog project about Twitter writing" (**Lily Applebaum**, C'12) had attendees in stitches and gasping for breath. After an introduction by **Madeleine Wattenbarger** (C'16) detailing the aim of Twit Crit — to create a unified space for serious writing about Twitter as a contemporary literary platform — **Isaac Kaplan** (C'15) ushered **Patricia Lockwood**, poet and tweeter, to the podium. Lockwood put audience members through a grueling forty minutes of hilarious snark paired with thoughtful theoretical insight, warning everyone that she'd never given or attended a lecture (though of her shaking hands she said, "that's not nervousness, that's espresso"). Sighing romantically at the mention of Twitter, she dissected the social media platform into five functions: Twitter as Alter Ego, Twitter as Six-Word Story, Twitter as Real-Time Autobiography, Twitter as Meta-Internet, and Twitter as the Last Transmissions From Earth. After much hilarity, the poet concluded her talk by reading a selection of her infamous Twitter sexts (illustrated somewhat incongruously by an image of Robin Williams playing sax) and we reconvened in the dining room for a correspondingly ridiculous bird-themed reception featuring an excess of Peeps.



Opposite page: Phil Sandick, Ariel Djanikian, and family members at the Cheryl J. Family Fiction program.  
This page: Henry Steinberg, coordinator of the Robinson Press; an excess of Peeps from the Twit Crit blog launch.

## COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING

We love partnering with other centers and arts organizations to open up exciting and unforeseen programming possibilities.

Our close ties to the **Creative Writing Program** helped us inaugurate the annual **Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Program**, for which Director of Creative Writing **Greg Djanikian** invited three eminent poets from the greater Philadelphia area: **Nathalie Anderson**, **Joan Landis**, and **Elaine Terranova**. The Creative Writing Program sponsored other events, too, including poetry readings by **Aracelis Girmay** and **Nada Gordon**, and several end-of-semester readings by students in writing classes of all genres.

The **English Department** helped us reconnect with literary classics, first through a student-organized panel discussion of Albert Camus's *The Stranger*, featuring faculty members **Gerald Prince**, **Jean-Michel Rabaté**, and **Philippe Met**, and then with "Old English Live," an event celebrating the great Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf*, which showcased contemporary translations and responses by Penn poets, musicians, and medievalists, including **Herman Beavers**, **Tsitsi Jaji**, **Bob Perelman**, **Danny Snelson**, **Emily Steiner**, and students in Emily Steiner's medieval lit class.

With the **Center for Africana Studies** we celebrated poetry of the African Diaspora by hosting readings in the long-standing Brave Testimony series. Through this special partnership, we were able to feature National Book Award winner **Nikky Finney** and Pulitzer Prize winner **Tracy K. Smith**. The Brave Testimony readings were so popular that we had to scramble to get enough chairs for the sudden influx of audience members (including a local youth tennis league that made a special trek to visit).

## WRITERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Conceptual artist **Simon Morris** called KWH Director **Jessica Lowenthal** in a bit of a panic on the day of his "Eating the Book" presentation: he'd left his out-of-print and difficult-to-obtain books in the overhead compartment of his plane from London — the very books he planned to discuss with a KWH audience a few hours later. Without the books, the presentation would make no sense. What to do? Luckily, the good folks in Penn's Special Collections library had the rare titles on hand and graciously agreed to loan them out for the night. Despite the lost luggage, "Eating the Book" went off without another hitch.

Other guests in our Writers Without Borders series included the enigmatic Iranian philosopher **Reza Negarestani**, a man whose writings so effectively elide fiction and fact that they tend to call even his own existence into question. **Thomson Guster** (C'10), who introduced Negarestani, admitted as much when he confessed: "Until he walked into this building, I wasn't even sure he was real." The audience sat rapt as the utterly charming Negarestani read scenes from his forthcoming book, *The Mortiloquist*, in which the great Greeks, lying on the ground, sewn into the corpses of oxen, discuss the nature of the existence of the unborn, as barbarians sack Athens in the background.

Thanks to the support of **Seth Ginns** (C'00), and the global interests of collaborators around campus, we are able to reach far beyond our intimate space to produce some truly remarkable international programs such as these. The case of the lost books and the intense speculation around Negarestani's visit reminded us of what it actually means to do such programming here: advanced planning plus contingency planning, helpful Penn partners who can act in a hurry, deep internet research, and a little bit of faith.

## Creative Ventures

Since the founding of the Kelly Writers House in 1995, we have been a place for creative people to convene and collaborate. People come here to develop projects that cross disciplinary boundaries, to explore sideways thinking and crooked paths, and to learn from one another in an environment ideal for intellectual exchange. Our Creative Ventures project — funded with extraordinary generosity by **Marc Wolpov** (W'80) and **Robin Wolpov** — has allowed us to encourage and support some of our most inventive faculty and students as they explore various modes and means of creative expression, which included:

**MUSIC & SOUND** Our Arts Café became an impromptu music studio several times this year, such as when ModPo student **Andrew Whiteman** previewed songs from his album *In the Pines*.

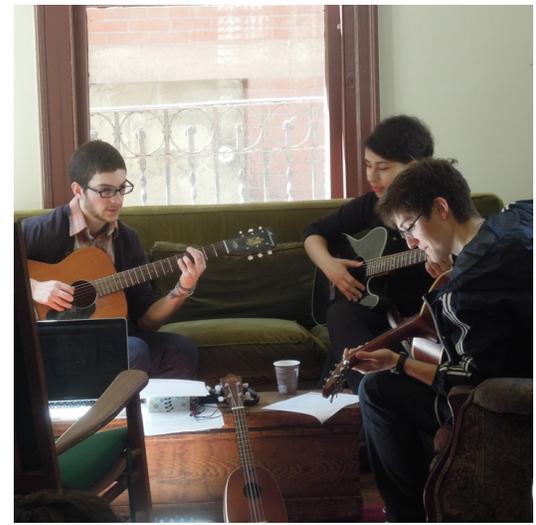
**CULINARY ARTS** We acknowledged the cultural centrality (and total deliciousness) of food through several food-related projects: **Andrew Beal** taught everyone to carve cucumber sharks, **Michelle Taransky** hosted an "edible books" party, and we celebrated the fifth anniversary of *Penn Appétit*.

**VISUAL ARTS** Art and writing intersected here in surprising and exciting ways: **Isaac Kaplan** (C'15) convened a symposium on the work of Marcel Duchamp. **Gina DeCagna** (C'16) founded a magazine of collaborative work by writers and artists. Artist **Ken Lum** (Penn's new undergraduate chair of Fine Arts) led a freewheeling conversation about his work and urban arts initiatives.

**ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNALISM** What's next for news? **Sam Apple**'s entrepreneurial journalism class pushed past newspapers and blogs in search of innovative platforms and modes. At the end of the semester students pitched their projects to a panel of venture capitalists and journalists, with \$7500 in prize money on the line for the top idea.

**MENTORSHIP** **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) and **Ali Castleman** (C'13) developed a bi-monthly series featuring casual conversations over lunch with faculty and staff of Penn's writing programs (with dessert made by the student attendees).

**SUSTAINABILITY & ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES** Students forged new paths toward socially-responsible and environmentally-sustainable activities: **Becca Goldstein** (C'14) led a panel discussion about local distilling practices. Our Green Initiatives Coordinator **Jenny Chen** (C'14) organized a literary bike tour of Philadelphia. And a team of students established a Penn "time bank," for exchanging skills outside of more traditional economies.



Left to right: Jess Bergman in period costume for our marathon reading of *In Cold Blood*; a corner of the living room converted to a crime scene for the marathon reading; students taking guitar lessons thanks to the Penn “time bank” exchange.

## TO HOLCOMB & BACK IN ELEVEN HOURS

Our seventh annual Marathon Reading transformed the Writers House into a crime scene: cordoned off by police tape, dummy corpses made with the help of **J. M. Conway** (C’16) and **Gabe Morales** (C’16) spilled across our living room. The book was *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote’s groundbreaking 1966 “nonfiction novel,” the true account of the murder of a Kansan family and the subsequent trial. We read the whole thing through in just under 12 hours.

To capture the grimness of the subject (as if the bodies were not enough), we served the same food the killers ate before committing their crimes: a diner feast of steak, succotash, hominy, and apple pie. **Jess Bergman** (C’14) helped lighten the mood by designing a t-shirt that re-imagined Holcomb, Kansas, as a tourist destination.

The reading of the book lasted well into the night — only a few brave souls remained to enjoy the murderers’ last meal when it was finally served at 11:15 PM. Among the most dedicated was marathon junkie **Harry Saffren**, who was quick to pick up any unclaimed reading slots. At the eleventh hour, **Max McKenna** (C’10), who led the heroic organizational efforts for the second year running, was still offering up his best Capote impression for anyone who asked.

## I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART

On February 19, we gathered to celebrate the first annual **Beltran Family Award for Innovative Teaching and Mentoring**. Award recipient **Karen Rile** designed, organized, and implemented a creative, multi-tiered project involving students, faculty, alumni, and staff in a cooperative effort of writing, editing, art, and design.

The project culminated in the publication of a beautiful, hand-printed letterpress edition of “I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart,” a short story by former KWH staff member **Sam Allingham**. The book was designed by **Henry Steinberg** (C’13), who also hand-printed it at the Robinson Press.

Sam’s story, based on the life of clarinetist Artie Shaw, was chosen through a peer-selection process following a call for submissions to the KWH community at large. Henry’s design, which resembles a 1940s songbook, cleverly reflects the aesthetics of the story. At the launch party, Sam read engagingly from his story to the packed room.

The edition is a micro-run of six hardback copies (reserved for project participants) and a limited softcover edition which sold out immediately at the launch party. Proceeds from the sale went back to the press for Henry and others to create more beautiful things.

## LIVE AT THE WRITERS HOUSE

An unusual collaboration with WXPN (88.5 FM) allows us to record for broadcast a monthly, hour-long radio show of local writers and musicians. With 99 episodes since 1997, **LIVE at the Writers House** is hosted by the inimitable **Michaela Majoun**, produced by KWH Program Coordinator **Alli Katz**, engineered by **Bob Bumbera** of WXPN, and made possible by funding from **BigRoc**. Shows this year included a celebration of Quirk Books, in honor of their tenth anniversary, which included a rousing performance by finger-puppet book designer **Michael Rogalski**; a showcase of “Philly Love Notes,” with journalists, a librarian, and a group of kids from Tree House Books gushing about our city; a stellar line-up from the fifth issue of *Apiary Magazine*; and a special edition of “Tell

Me a Story,” **Hillary Rae**’s comedy slam, which featured a musical tribute to the Philadelphia accent by **Emily** and **Micah McGraw**.

## YOU WISH YOU KNEW

Hub member **Alexa Bryn** (C’13) brought us another two exciting programs this year through her **Writers You Wish You Knew More About** series, which invites students, faculty, alumni, and community members to speak about the work of their favorite under-the-radar writers.

In the fall, seven theater-lovers from around Penn and Philadelphia — faculty members **Jim Schlatter** and **Rose Malague** of Penn’s Theatre Arts Program, alumni playwrights **Violette Carb** (C’11) and **Matt Ocks** (C’06), our own Financial Coordinator **Andrew Beal**, and student actors **Anya Lichtenstein** (C’13) and **Josh Herren** (C’13) — joined together to recognize female dramatists, from seventeenth-century Aphra Behn to contemporaries Young Jean Lee and Amy Herzog. Violette brought audience members to tears with her pitch-perfect reading of Sarah Kane’s surprisingly gentle *Crave*, and Josh had everyone in hysterics as he played the catty socialites in Clare Boothe Luce’s *The Women*.

The laughs continued in the spring as seven campus personalities from Mask and Wig, Bloomers, *Classless*, and other student comedy organizations honored their humor heroes with “Funny Writers You Wish You Knew More About.” *Under the Button* blogger **Jessica Marder** (C’15) read from Simon Rich’s hilarious essay “Is It Just Me?” about a guy who finds out his ex-girlfriend has rebounded with none other than Adolf Hitler, and *Punchbowl* editor **Lance Wildorf** (C’13) shared Rob Delaney’s “I Fuck Food,” a biting exploration of our culture’s near-pornographic obsession with overeating. Other featured humorists included Dave Barry, Moshe Kasher, Cindy Chupack, Chris Gethard, and Mindy Kaling.



Left to right: Director Jessica Lowenthal with daughter Alice Godfrey; KWH staff crowds around the kitchen table; Arielle Pardes and Gwen Lewis wear matching outfits.

## Povich Journalism Programs

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of **Maury Povich** (C'62) and **Connie Chung**, who established the **Povich Fund for Journalism Programs at the Kelly Writers House** to permanently support our journalism programming, we are able to host an astonishing number of events each year that feature working journalists, including lunch talks with reporters and culture critics, presentations by documentary filmmakers and magazine executives, and special sessions of all kinds to explore the ever-evolving landscape of nonfiction writing.

**GEORGE ANASTASIA**  
crime reporter

**MARK BOWDEN**  
journalist, *Vanity Fair* contributing editor

**URSULA CARY**  
Rodale Books senior editor

**NATE CHINEN** (C'97)  
*New York Times* music writer

**DAVID CORN**  
political journalist

**DOMINIC DEJOSEPH**  
filmmaker

**MOLLY EICHEL**  
*Philadelphia Daily News* columnist

**SABRINA ERDELY** (C'94)  
freelance journalist

**EMILY GUENDELSBERGER**  
*Philadelphia City Paper* arts editor

**CHRISTIAN HOARD**  
*Rolling Stone* editor

**CYNTHIA KAPLAN** (C'85)  
essayist; memoirist



[writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/series/povich/](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/series/povich/)

**ELIOT KAPLAN** (C'78)  
Hearst Magazines executive

**RUTH KONIGSBERG** (C'90)  
*Time* senior editor

**DAVID LIEBERMAN**  
*Deadline Hollywood* executive

**ALAN LIGHT**  
rock critic

**JAMES MARTIN** (C'82)  
memoirist; Jesuit priest

**JINA MOORE**  
reporter and multimedia producer

**ADA CALHOUN**  
freelance journalist

**ROBERT SHARENOW**  
Lifetime Networks executive

**DAVID SHIELDS**  
essayist & novelist

**BENJAMIN SISARIO**  
*New York Times* reporter

**SALLY BEDELL SMITH**  
biographer

**SAM STEIN**  
*Huffington Post* political reporter

**BETH KEPHART** (C'82)  
novelist; essayist

**JOHN JEREMIAH SULLIVAN**  
essayist

**MICHAEL VITEZ**  
*Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer

**STEVE VOLK**  
*Philadelphia Magazine* senior editor

# KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM



On Monday afternoons in the spring semester, students hunker down in our Arts Café for passionate three-hour long discussions of writing by three of the world's greatest living authors. This is the Fellows Seminar, one component of the annual **Kelly Writers House Fellows Program**, a project sponsored by Writers House Board chairman **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present). Each spring, the Fellows program brings three eminent writers into our intimate space, first to meet with students in the seminar, then to give a public reading of their work.

“Just Walking Around” quickly became the mantra of this fifteenth iteration of the seminar, which featured visits from postmodern poet **John Ashbery**, famed *New Yorker* essayist **Janet Malcolm**, and screenwriter-director **Rodrigo García**. The phrase is from the title of an Ashbery poem in which the speaker wanders through his own writing. The students, led by **Al Filreis**, spent

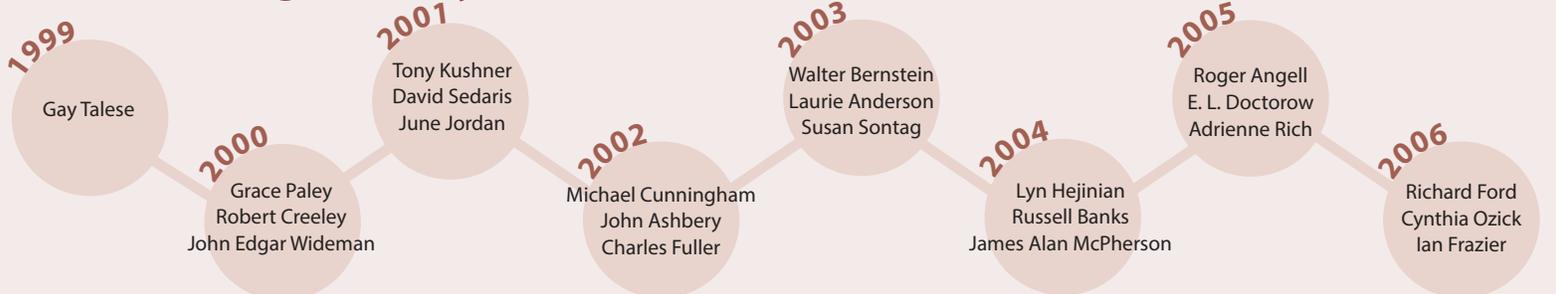
four weeks on each Fellow, “walking around” in as much of each writer’s work as possible, to prepare for the intense visits that would come.

Indeed, prepping for a Fellows visit can take a lot of legwork. Students were assigned special projects for each class session, in addition to small mountains of weekly reading. **Naomi Shavin** (C'14) and **Erica Kimmel** (C'13) contacted some of Ashbery’s poet-

**The amazing conclusion I drew from Ashbery’s work is that wherever I go, that’s where the story is. Looking under rocks that people rarely overturn could yield either dirt or precious metals — both can be incorporated into a story.**  
— **Joe Pinsker** (C'13)

contemporaries and literary descendants, including Tan Lin, Charles Bernstein, and Jena Osman, to interview them about his influence on their work. **Jess Bergman** (C'14) delved into the archive of Malcolm’s *New Yorker* writings to assess her long relationship with the magazine.

## Celebrating fifteen years of Fellows!





**Emily Cutler** (C'16) interviewed Jon Avnet (C'71) and Marcia Olglesby about the creation of their WIGS project, which features scripted dramas for the web, many of which were written and directed by Rodrigo García.

All this prep work culminated in astounding two-day visits by each writer. **Lily Applebaum** (C'12) did a fantastic job coordinating the nuts and bolts of each visit, and all the students had roles to fulfill, too. It took a large crew of nimble students (and some tricky topographical thinking) to transform the Arts Café from a 25-person classroom to a 120-person program venue. Other students manned the guest list, set up and sold books, prepped and served writer-specific snacks, and helped Lily complete a long checklist of tasks that contributed to making each visit memorable.

**Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06) returned to cook special dinners that followed each reading, with teaching assistant **Max McKenna** (C'10) on wine service and a posse of students helping to cook, serve, and clear the meals. Rodrigo Garcia raved about Erin's roast chicken and everyone agreed that the barley risotto made for delicious next-

day leftovers (alas — the chicken was by then eaten up).

In the end, the best moments were the spontaneous ones. After the class gave an impromptu recitation of his poem "Some

**I cut out the last couple of lines from "Soonest Mended" and pasted them on my front door. For three months my best friends and I passed that poem as we left the house in the morning. This exhortation to embrace the simultaneity has been deeply meaningful and therapeutic for me in these final months of college.**

— **Willa Granger** (C'13)

Trees," Ashbery was moved to confess, "Had I known when I was twenty that someday, sixty-five years later, a roomful of twenty-year-olds would recite from memory what I wrote, I would have written more poems like that!" ■



[writing.upenn.edu/wh/people/fellows/](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh/people/fellows/)





# student publications



Left: Penn Appétit editor-in-chief, Eesha Sardesai. Right: Madeleine Wattenbarger.

## penn appétit celebrates its 5th year

Five years and eleven issues later, *Penn Appétit* was back where it began: the first floor of Kelly Writers House. For the fifth-anniversary celebration of Penn's scrumptious food magazine, founding editor **Emma Morgenstern** (C'10) shared its origin story, recounting how, as an eager freshman, she took a class on food writing with poet **Tom Devaney**, and then met as soon as she could with KWH Director **Jessica Lowenthal**. Could she start a food magazine at Penn? Would the Writers House help her out? (Yes and yes.) Emma spoke about the early issues — the black-and-whites, photo shoots in "dirty, dirty Harrison," the first color printing — and her editorial successors, **Elise Dihlmann-Malzer** (C'11) and **Alex Marcus** (W'12), joined her in recalling the rest. They spoke about what makes working on *Penn Appétit* so great: late nights in editing rooms, a seemingly endless supply of good food, and food-loving friends who help get it all done. Standing editor-in-chief **Eesha Sardesai** (C'13) emceed the event and introduced a series of readings from the best of *Penn Appétit*, including mouth-watering pieces about New York pizza, frozen chicken, and fresh French bread, by **Abigail Koffler** (C'15), **Chelsea Goldinger** (C'14), and **Katie Behrman** (C'15), and delightful poems by multiple contributors about everything from the Lee Ahn Food Truck to the transcendence of Kool Aid. The evening ended with a feast befitting the occasion.

## STAMPED

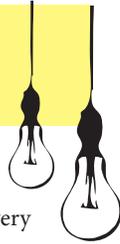
*Penn's student travel magazine*

Fittingly, the first issue of the new student-run travel magazine *Stamped* was imagined, assembled, and edited almost entirely while founding editors **Frida Garza** (C'14), **Jeanette Sha** (C'14), and **Grace Wang** (C'14, W'14) were studying abroad. The intrepid editorial team shared documents and ideas using Dropbox, Hangouts, and Google Drive to develop a travel publication specifically for college students. Thanks to some crafty marketing and a gorgeous website that appealed to travel-loving Penn students, *Stamped* was an instant hit. The magazine covered a lot of ground in its extraordinarily popular first issue: "In Search of Zero-Cost Adventure" profiles an entrepreneurial student who turned a creative idea into a low-cost cross-country trek; "Finding a Bathroom in the City of Light" offers a thoughtful and hilarious comparison between the romantic perception of Paris and the realities of urban travel; and short pieces collected as "field notes" cover international trends from fashion in Columbia to slang words in Singapore.

Find out more about KWH publications and visit some of them online at: [writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/publications/](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/publications/).



# FILAMENT



In a spring talk at the Kelly Writers House, *New Yorker* Washington correspondent **Ryan Lizza** suggested journalistic writing in today's high-speed media environment has become "very short" and "very fast." But readers, he assured us, still crave longer, meaty pieces. "Frankly," Lizza told the crowd, "the fact that everything has gotten so short and so quick has created some shelf space for deeply reported long-form journalism. The appetite is out there."

Two-year-old *Filament* aims to feed that hunger. The ambitious student-run magazine offers a home for writing that takes its time, for distinctive and fleshy stories that need plenty of space to tell them properly. *Filament* has tapped into a vibrant nonfiction renaissance on our campus that's rooted in such classes as "Writing from Photographs," taught by **Paul Hendrickson**, and "Long-Form Journalistic Writing," led by **Dick Polman**. Much like *The New Yorker*, *Filament* features outstanding fiction, poetry, photography, and cartoons alongside hefty nonfiction. Standout pieces from the spring issue include a moving essay by **Kristen Martin** (C'11) about mourning and loss (and Grandma Mary Martin's precise pie-making techniques); a contemplative piece by **Shaj Matthew** (C'14) about the Museum of Innocence and the occasional difficulties of discerning fiction from fact; and a feature story by **Joe Pinsker** (C'13) that explores Dorothea Lange's most famous Depression-era photograph, "Migrant Mother."

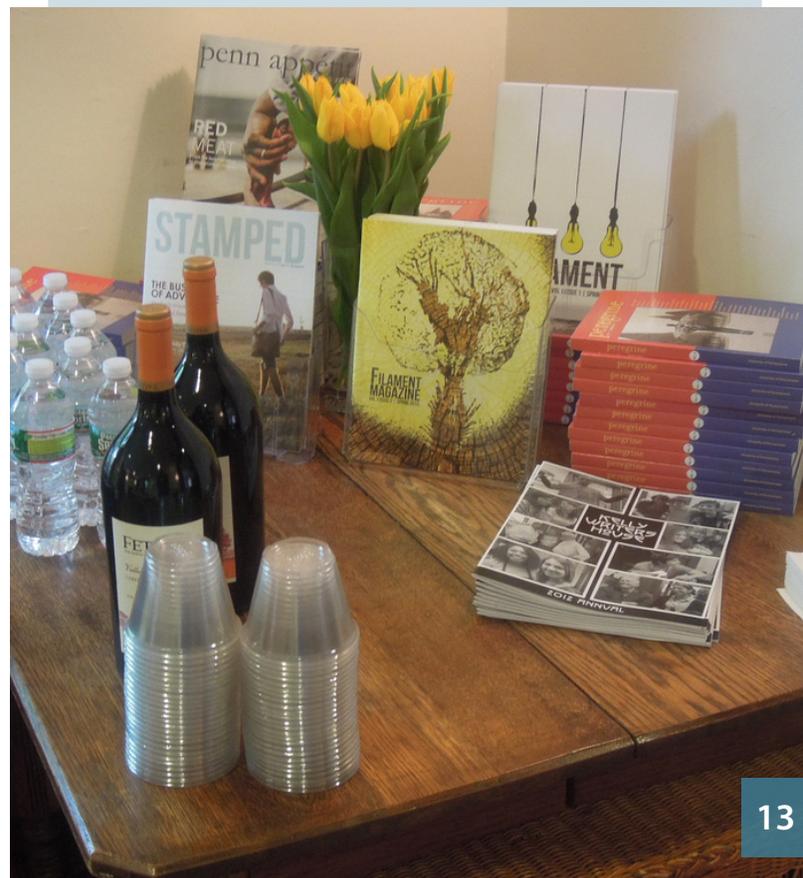
# SYMBIOSIS

THE CROSSROADS OF ART & WRITING

Rejecting the idea of the solitary creator toiling alone, the *Symbiosis* project aims to cultivate collaborative relationships between writers and visual artists. The project promotes free intellectual exchange between and among disciplines by encouraging writers and artists to work together to develop mutually beneficial creative processes. The result, a new student-led magazine, features some of the most successful of these collaborations — those that resulted in a printable piece or duet — but the magazine doesn't stop there. According to editor-in-chief **Gina DeCagna** (C'16), the *Symbiosis* project is much more than what gets printed: "*Symbiosis*," she writes, "is about exploring the intersections of independent artists and writers, fostering intellectual connections between individuals, and traveling new creative paths with the company of a partner." Because the student group utilizes a randomized-matching system that allows participants to work with someone new or unfamiliar, the discovery process is just as important as the end product, and through open discussion and support, the magazine encourages the creative endeavors of all participants.

## supporting student publications initiative

Writers House encourages and supports the ambitious aspirations of student editors and publishers in many ways. We offer advice when needed, especially at the conception stage. We make sure that the computers in our Pub Room (purchased through our **Alice Cooper Shoulberg Fund**) are loaded up with the latest design software, so that students can gather here to produce their publications. We are a primary source of start-up funding for new print initiatives at Penn — and, through the assistance of several special funds, we are able to sustain a handful of publications permanently. This year, the **Creative Ventures Fund** supported the printing costs of new magazines *Symbiosis* and *Stamped*, and helped veteran *Penn Appetit* celebrate its fifth anniversary. The **Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers** paid for the printing of *DoubleSpeak*, Penn's premiere magazine of literary translation. Our **Fund for Feminist Projects** contributed, as usual, to *F-word*, a journal of feminist writing and thought. And the **Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowed Fund for a Literary Journal** supported the efforts of *Filament*, which printed a hefty 50-page issue this spring.



## NEW INITIATIVE

# ModPo: a MOOC heard 'round the world

**A**mong the first courses to be offered through Penn's partnership with Coursera in 2012 was "ModPo" — a free, open, non-credit, online course on modern and contemporary American poetry, based at the Kelly Writers House. Al Filreis taught the course, a version of his popular "English 88," which has been held in our Arts Café every other fall for nearly twenty years. Now the the intimacy and intensity of a small college seminar would be available to anyone, anywhere, who wanted to participate online through the Coursera platform, which Al and his team of Writers House-based teaching assistants adapted so that it looked and felt very much like the Writers House itself.

ModPo was the second-ever humanities "MOOC" (massive open online course) to be offered, and the first one to be truly interactive. Innovative methods of participation made this possible: active discussion forums (in which Al and the TAs participated), weekly live webcasts hosted at the Writers House, peer-reviewed essays, and an ancillary Facebook group and Twitter feed.

45,000 people from around the world (129 different countries) enrolled in ModPo. But despite its massive size, the course had the feel of an intimate seminar, partly because of Al's teaching mode: "My goal as a teacher for the past twenty years," he wrote for a piece in the *LA Times*, "has



been to imply that the use of technology in teaching need not be impersonal." And, indeed, though Coursera provided new technology for delivering course materials, nothing about the course felt impersonal, and ModPo helped create interactive learning communities.

ModPo students (or "Modpeople," as teaching assistant Dave Poplar christened them) hosted meet-ups in their respective hometowns around the world, gathering in local cafés and living rooms to work together on the knotty ModPo poems. A group in Scotland recorded and uploaded their own ModPo-style discussions about contemporary Scottish poets to share with their 45,000 classmates. Newly made

friends in D.C. and other cities convened ongoing in-person discussion groups. Tens of thousands "visited" the Writers House through video recordings of discussions of poems, through live interactive webcasts, and through a very popular room-by-room video tour of the House guided by Al. Many visited in person, too — some to meet Al and the TAs, others to attend programs and even pitch in as volunteers.

Through ModPo, people all over the world bonded over their shared love of poetry and their mutual interest in our little cottage on Locust Walk.

At the end of the ten-week ModPo experience, a number of participants chose to extend their involvement with

**"This class is exquisitely thought-out and executed. Al has managed to make this a highly challenging class without excluding those of us who are not used to Ivy League-level discourse."  
— Andrea Buonincontro**



KWH by contributing to our Student Recruitment and Access Fund, which enables us to reach out to talented writers among prospective admissions candidates from far-flung and under-resourced high schools, and to our Digital Poetries Fund,

**“Every time I watch a video or go through a lesson, I feel like I have been given a gift.”**  
— Christine Nichols

which makes possible our webcasts, podcasts about poetry, PennSound, and *Jacket2*. Our new ModPo family demonstrated generosity and enthusiasm, befitting the extraordinary sense of community engendered by the course and its participants.

Indeed, though 45,000 people participated in the MOOC, the community that MoPo created was

close-knit and lasting. Therese Pope of California, who will join the second run of ModPo as a Community TA, expresses the paradoxically intimate feel of this truly massive course: “I love the video close-reading discussions of the poems and our live webcasts. Al makes us all feel very connected to each other, despite the fact that it’s an online class and we are in a virtual classroom. My fellow students are some of the loveliest and most talented people I’ve met. We all come from different professions, ages, and cultural backgrounds, which only enriches the hands-on experience. Our ModPo class has truly created a diverse poetry salon community filled with amazing individuals — including a lovely 81-year-old Greek gentleman, Mr. Telionis, who has touched our hearts with his beautiful essays about Emily Dickinson. I have always loved learning and education, and while I enjoyed my collegiate experience this class even outshines some of my best college classes. I’m blown away every day — it far exceeds my expectations and then some.” ■

## ModPo by the numbers

Students enrolled in  
ModPo’s first  
iteration: **45,576**

Total video discussion  
views: **414,597**

Students who took  
quizzes: **8,553**

Students who submitted  
essays: **9,309**

Total distinct discussion  
threads: **16,209**

Total discussion forum  
views: **1,010,000**



Students in the New England Young Writers Conference sit in a circle during Jamie-Lee's trip to Vermont.

For years, we at the Writers House have stewarded prospective Penn students through the college application process, recruiting strong writers the way a track coach recruits promising sprinters. We are especially interested in communicating with potential applicants from under-resourced high schools, and those who think Penn is beyond their reach. We want strong writers here. Penn does too.

## Expanding access Associate Director for Recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05)

Our own Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) travels all over the country visiting schools, summer writing institutes, and after-school arts projects in search of talented writers. To keep her traveling, more than one hundred people contributed to our **Student Recruitment Fund** this year, which, in addition to the **Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers**, helps defray the cost of outreach. Thank you, to those who've contributed, for joining us to help ensure that our recruitment is as far-reaching as possible. We are especially grateful to **Joan Kim** (C'97, G'97, W'99) for making the inaugural gift to our Recruitment Fund and **Harry Rosenberg** and **Laurie Sayet** for their continuing vision in this area.

**The position of Associate Director for Recruitment was new in 2012, but the Writers House has been recruiting students for years. What changed?**

We've cared about bringing strong writers to Penn for a long time — The *New York Times* of all places took notice of our recruitment efforts back in 2007 — so I see this job as an expansion rather than a completely new initiative. We've wanted to be more proactive than reactive in our approach. I mean, instead of meeting and corresponding only with the students who find us, we've wanted to go out and find great young writers ourselves. And now we can! There are many, many stellar writers out there who either don't know about Penn at all, or who don't realize that it's a great place for creative people.

**How do you choose the places you'll visit?**

There is no exact formula, but it basically comes down to research and networking. We turn to Penn students and alumni who attended high schools and other programs with excellent writing faculty and workshops, and with their help, I've been able to connect with local teachers and advisors. One of the most exciting and inspiring aspects of this work has been the overwhelming enthusiasm we've received from those in our community. People have been generous with their time and information — and also financially, with the creation of our Student Recruitment Fund that quite literally enables my travel.

**Aside from visiting schools and writing programs, how do you reach out to promising writers?**

One of our major methods of outreach this year involved contacting the guidance counselors and English teachers of students who won medals from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which is a nationally renowned program. Student staffer **Josie Elias** (C'14) was instrumental in this project, by the way! Scholastic award recipients were then informed of our interest in their work, and many of them got in touch about applying to Penn.

We have also offered an online book group for prospective students this year, the first of its kind in our long-standing program primarily for alumni and Penn parents. This has been a way for prospective students to learn about some of our creative writing faculty, since the group featured writing by **Paul Hendrickson**, **Lorene Cary** (C'78, G'78), and **Kenneth Goldsmith**, plus it

was led by me — and I teach an introductory nonfiction writing course in the Creative Writing Program. It was a lot of fun, an informal and energetic discussion about memoir writing that also enabled these great students from all over the country to get to know each other. We plan to do another group like this next year!

**Do other schools recruit writers this way?**

Not that we know of! We've gotten great feedback from the students we've worked with in the last few years — students and parents tell us frequently that they haven't encountered anything like us at other schools — and that goes for the Writers House community in general as well as our approach to stewarding prospective students.

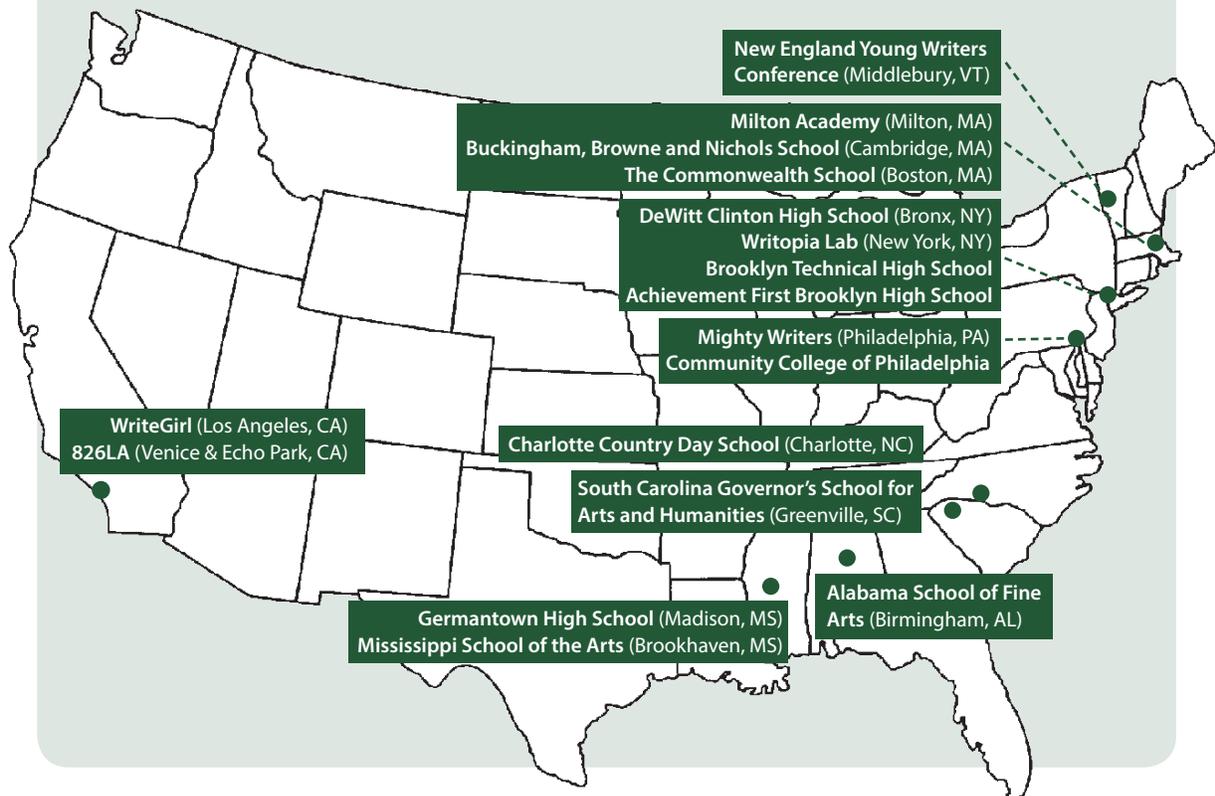
**Say I know a high school student interested in writing and Penn. Are there things she can do to strengthen her candidacy?**

First, the student should contact me by email ([jjossely@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:jjossely@writing.upenn.edu)) to introduce herself. If she is able to schedule a visit to campus, that's a great next step. I can meet with her at the Writers House and we can possibly arrange for her to sit in on a program or a writing class. If your friend isn't able to visit campus, no problem! We can be in touch by email, I can send a bunch of materials by mail, and she should (in any case) definitely check out our website to become familiar with our programs and other offerings. Prospective students can also send me writing samples by email. If it's possible to participate in a summer writing program to hone your skills, go for it! And if not, just write! ■



## On the road again

some of the schools and programs we visited in 2012–2013



“When our students met with Jamie-Lee and learned about the extraordinary programs and resources of Writers House, it helped bring the dream of going to college closer to reality. They could see themselves there, writing, learning, and contributing to the Penn community. It’s been wonderful to connect with not just a program but also an admissions process that values our students’ creative achievements and understands their challenges.”

— Allison Deegan, Ed.D, Associate Director, WriteGirl, Los Angeles, CA

“Do you know what a surprise it was to hear from my college counselor that the University of Pennsylvania, of all places, was recruiting me for writing, of all things? My English teacher and I are still in shock.” — a prospective student for the class of 2017 from Boise, Idaho

# SUPPORTING THE WRITERS HOUSE

All of the projects, programs, experiences, and opportunities you read about in this annual — literally all of them — are made possible by the loyal support of people like you. The Writers House thrives on its community, for ideas, energy, and involvement, and also, crucially, for financial generosity. Contributions of all sizes enable this project to keep running. Thank you, Friends, for believing in us — for protecting, nourishing, and sustaining this creative enterprise.



Left: Jess Bergman, Madeleine Wattenbarger, and Emily Harnett; right: local grade school students hone their writing skills.

## INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, & MENTORSHIPS

**Bassini Apprenticeships Fund** The Bassini Apprenticeship Fund enables us to sponsor semester-long apprenticeships for students to work alongside professional writers associated with Penn's writing programs. These invaluable learning opportunities allow students to experience firsthand the real work of a writing career. **Permanently endowed by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73).**

**Eisler Endowed Internship Fund** So that any student can afford to accept special learning opportunities regardless of financial circumstance, the Eisler Internship Fund allows us to pay stipends to students for competitive (but unpaid or modestly paid) internships at arts and culture institutions. We want to be sure that opportunity is truly equal. **Permanently endowed by Bonnie Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79).**

**Kate Levin Community Outreach Internship Fund** This fund endows our Outreach Coordinator internship, so that we may pay a student to organize ongoing community service efforts. Outreach Coordinator Kate Herzlin (C'14) led a materials drive this year for local puppet theater *SpiralQ*. For our literacy outreach project Write On, Kate cooked up healthy snacks that are now legendary at Lea Elementary (and help keep the kids coming back). **Permanently endowed by Kate Levin (GAS'96).**

**Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund** With support from the Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund we teach students professional editing, particularly copyediting and proofreading, which are (as many of us know) highly sought-after skills. Our current

Mandel Intern Kenna O'Rourke (C'15) serves valiantly as an editorial assistant for *Jacket2*, reporting directly to editor Julia Bloch, who praises Kenna's work almost daily. **Permanently endowed by Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83).**

**Mentorship Support** Our Alumni Mentorship Program matches students with talented alumni who want to give back to their alma mater. Students seeking guidance meet one-on-one and in small groups with alumni writers, editors, executives, and others with expertise to share. One standout mentorship lunch this year featured Emmy award winner Andrea Kremer (C'80), the first woman in history to serve as a sports commentator for ESPN. **Supported annually by Penn parent Judith Zarin.**

**RealArts@PENN Internship Funds** RealArts@PENN is a project designed to help some of Penn's most creative students make meaningful connections beyond the university, particularly through paid summer internships at leading arts and culture institutions, such as Nickelodeon, *Rolling Stone*, the Jewish Museum, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Generous Penn alumni and faculty — including David Stern (C'89, ENG'89), Stuart Gibbs (C'91), Cheryl Family (C'91), Jon Avnet (C'71), Anthony DeCurtis, and Dick Polman — lent us their expertise and their connections at various arts organizations to help make the internships possible. **Supported by the RealArts Internship Fund, created by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation; and the Paul and Ossi Burger RealArts@PENN Internship Fund, established by Paul (W'76) and Ossi Burger.**



Nadia Laher baking cookies in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen.

## AWARDS & PRIZES

**Beltran Family Teaching and Award Fund** The Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award allows us to honor an outstanding and innovative teacher. The award comes with a grant to develop a KWH program in keeping with the teacher's innovative work. Inaugural Beltran honoree Karen Rile (C'80) organized a collaborative letterpress project. **Permanently endowed by Penn parents John Paul Beltran and Lina Beltran.**

**Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Fund** The Heled Travel Grant enables a student to travel for the purpose of conducting the research that will lead to a significant writing project. 2013 grantee Michael Morse (C'13) spent two weeks traveling with artist Gunter Demnig in Germany, documenting the ongoing memorialization of the Holocaust. **Permanently endowed by Mali Heled Kinberg (C'80) in memory of her mother Terry B. Heled.**

**Michael and Danielle Goldstein Endowed Prize** This endowed prize awards a stipend to an outstanding KWH-affiliated student in need of support. This year's winner was Yessi Gutierrez (C'14), who — among other things — edits a blog about Guatemala, is managing editor of Penn's feminist magazine *F-Word*, and runs a book club at KWH. **Permanently endowed by Penn parents Michael and Danielle Goldstein.**

**Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction** The Parker Prize celebrates excellence in student nonfiction writing, especially long-form journalism. The 2013 Parker Prize winner was Joe Pinsker (C'13), who is also the recipient of a prestigious editorial fellowship at *The Atlantic*. **Permanently endowed by Bret Parker (C'90).**

**The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund** We established the Kerry Prize to honor the literary communitarianism of our first director, Kerry Sherin Wright. The prize is awarded annually to a Hub member who proposes a project in line with Kerry's capacious vision. This year's winner, Kate Herzlin (C'14), organized *The Kelly Writers Home Project*, a collaboratively written, interactive, site-specific play that used the whole House as its stage, and explored questions of home and homelessness. **Supported annually by the KWH community, with a special gift this year from Richard Cook and Lucy Oh Cook (C'95).**

## FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

The Kelly Writers House is delighted to recognize the members of our Friends Campaign: alumni, staff, parents, and other friends who have generously given to the House and the more than 150 programs it presents each semester. Thank you, Friends, for helping us protect, sustain, and enhance the real achievement of the Kelly Writers House project.

Caroline Aiello; Harriet Ainetchi; Michael Albright; Matthew Algeo; Nathalie Anderson; James Andres; Tomomi Arikawa; Michael and Gina Arlen; Tali Aronsky; Derek Arthur; John Ashbery; Duff Axsom; Linda and Robert Badal; Jenni Baker; Sylva Baker; Deborah Baldwin; Dennis and Debbie Barone; Greg Barron; Leona Barsky; Herman Beavers; Arthur and Susan Becker-Weidman; Susan Bee and Charles Bernstein; Leah Begg; Craig Behrenfeld; Mary and Ken Behrman; Julia Bemiss; Elise and Jared Benatar; Evelyn Bender; Linda Bender; Barry Berger; Edward Bergman; Marshall Berman; Len, Ellan, and Matthew Bernstein; Cara Bertron; Martin and Barbara Bienenstock; David Biro; Ronna and Simone Blaser; Rachel Blau DuPlessis; Julia Bloch and Allison Harris; Kathleen Blurock; Megan Bly; Gordon Bond; Jennifer Baldino Bonett; David Borgenicht and Suzanne Simons; Neil Braun and Anne Flick; Barbara Bravo; Jay Brecker; Julie Bright Stewart and Daniel Stewart; Nick Brodin; Ellen Brooks and Robert Cohen; Eric D. Brotman; Arielle Brousse; Jackee and Denis Brousse; Deborah Brown; Michael Brown; David and Ann Brownlee; Alexis Brunswick; Robert Brylawski; Mary Ann Burdett; Nathalie Burg; Craig Carnaroli and Amie Thornton; Adam Carpenter; Lynn Carroll; John Carroll and Rachael Paz; David Caruso; Lenny Cassuto; Diane Castiglioni; Philip and Wendy Catalano; Sandra Chaff; Mandana Chaffa; Annie Cho; Stanley Chodorow; Peter and Leah Cianfrani; Deborah Clark; Sara Coelho; Cathleen Cohen; David and Laurie Cohen; Rachel Cohen; Mike Cohn; Jo Colley; John Colwell; Susan Comolli; John J. Conley SJ; Stef Cooper; Bernard and Esther Cooperman; Kerry Cooperman; Randall Couch; Mark Covington; Allan Cramer; Michael and Pamela Crane; William Creeley; Susan Croll and Paul Monasevitch; Michael Crow; Patricia Crumbaker; Amaris Cuchanski; Joyce Cummings; Vinnie Curren and Julie Preis; Barbara Daniels; Larry Dark; Colleen Davis; Terrance Daye; Anthony DeCurtis; Bob and Carmen DeFina; Lucia della Paolera; Cliff and Jill Denker; Phyllis Denlea; Thomas Devaney and Amy Sadao; Paul Deveney; Linda Diamond; Franklin Dines; Melissa DiRado; Gregory Djanikian; Howard and Paula Donsky; Charles Downey; Kendall Dudley; Robert and Pattie Duncan; George Economou and Rochelle Owens; Carol Elias; Ed Elias; Elaine Emerson; Diana England; Melissa Enns; Randi Hutter Epstein;

(Continued on page 21)



Clockwise from left: digging in to a post-program reception; Charles Bernstein chats with artist Francie Shaw and professor Jim English; a pile of "Ashberies" made by the Bergmann family.

## PROJECTS

**The Brodsky Gallery Fund** The Brodsky Gallery Fund supports the work of student art curators, who select, hang, and showcase works by local (and not-so-local) visual artists. Curator Lily Applebaum (C'12) put up four shows this year, including "Stat of the Union," an election-themed show that playfully explored the ways we engage with infographics and statistics. Several shows this year were complemented by installation-specific broadsides designed and hand-printed by Henry Steinberg (C'13). **Permanently endowed by Michael Brodsky (W'88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C'89).**

**Writers House Journal Endowment Fund** The primary readership for our online poetry journal *Jacket2* is located in the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia — but we've noted readers in Qatar, Zimbabwe, Estonia, and Laos, too. The journal is truly international in its scope. The Writers House Journal Endowment Fund makes such vast reach possible. **Permanently endowed by Harry Groome (C'63).**

**Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowment for Literary Journalism Magazine** Literary journalism flourishes at Penn. The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures student journalistic talent by making possible the publication of *Filament*, a *New Yorker*-style publication that features substantial long-form pieces by Penn students. **Permanently endowed by Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld.**

**The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Fund** Through the Robinson Press, students discover and explore print culture. Designed and hand-printed by students, Robinson Press projects include leaflets, postcards, maps, hand-sewn books, and more. Robinson Press coordinator Henry Steinberg (C'13) this year led workshops for a crew of Robinson Press recruits. **Endowed by Nina Robinson Vitow (CW'70, WG'76) in memory of her parents Herman and Jeanne Robinson.**

**The Creative Ventures Fund** The Creative Ventures project supports interdisciplinary collaborations and unusual creative projects, especially those that emphasize innovation, convergence, process, and imagination. The underlying goal: to enable Penn's most creative students and faculty to pursue ambitious ideas. The Creative Ventures Fund made possible a range of projects this year, including the startup Penn TimeBank (a service-based economic exchange system), and Sam Apple's Entrepreneurial Journalism course, which awarded \$7500 to top student ideas. **Supported annually by Marc Wolpov (W'80) and Robin Wolpov.**

**Kelly Writers House Fellows** Now in its fifteenth cycle, the Kelly Writers House Fellows program invites three eminent writers each year for intensive two-day visits that include a public reading, an interview with Al Filreis, and a meeting with students in the associated Fellows Seminar. The Fellows project enables young writers to interact with working writers they greatly admire, in settings ideal for meaningful intellectual exchange — including casual conversations over home cooked meals in our dining room. This year's Fellows were poet John Ashbery, essayist Janet Malcolm, and filmmaker Rodrigo García. **Supported annually by Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present).**

**CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund** Every other year we partner with the Institute of Contemporary Art to offer a unique year-long undergraduate course, sponsored by the CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund. Led by conceptual artist and poet Kenneth Goldsmith (currently MOMA's poet-in-residence), "Writing Through Culture and Art" takes students on museum and gallery tours, leads them through immersive writing experiences, and challenges their notions of form. **Funded annually by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation.**

## OUTREACH / BEYOND THE CAMPUS

**Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers** This uniquely structured fund assists our outreach to young writers in a twofold manner. Half of the gift supports the work of our Associate Director of Recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), as she travels around the country seeking talented young writers. The other half funds an internship for a KWH-affiliated student to teach creative writing to children during the summer. 2013 Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Dane Mainella (C'14 ENG'14) taught boys and girls aged 8 through 15 at Frost Valley, a 6000-acre camping center in the Catskill Mountains of New York State. **Permanently endowed by Harry Rosenberg (W'79) and Laurie Sayet.**

**KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund** Since our Alumni Online Book Groups launched in 2000, we've hosted seventy robust moderator-led online book discussions for alumni, Penn parents, and our extended Penn family. Our KWH Alumni Online Book Group Fund allows us to pay stipends to the discussion leaders, many of whom stretched the idea of the "book" this year by leading discussions on Woody Allen films, Stephen King's story-to-screen adaptations, and Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. **Supported annually by KWH Advisory Board member David Roberts (W'84).**

**Esther T. Saxon Term Fund** The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects for school children in local districts, many of which are under-resourced and in need of the enrichment Writers House programs can provide. The cornerstone of these efforts is Write On, a student-led literacy project that invites grade schoolers to the House for playful, collaborative creative writing exercises. **Supported annually by Jerilyn Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.**

**Digital Poetries Fund** Our newly established Digital Poetries Fund allows us to make our vast digital resources freely available to anyone, anywhere in the world. The fund pays for staff and equipment that support PennSound, the largest online collection of free digital poetry recordings in the world; PoemTalk, a monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis and co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation of Chicago; *Jacket2*, a premiere internet resource for critical and scholarly writing about poetry; and ModPo, our MOOC on modern and contemporary poetry taught by Al Filreis and a team of TAs. **Supported annually by the KWH community, with special support from David Roberts (W'84), Harry Groome (C'63), and Stuart Applebaum, who made his gift in honor of Lily Applebaum.**

**Student Recruitment and Access Fund** With help from the Access Fund, our own Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) has worked tirelessly as our Associate Director of Recruitment to locate, identify, and recruit talented young writers. Our goal is to show those students — particularly those who believe Penn is beyond their reach financially, geographically, socially, or otherwise — that a Penn education is possible. Anyone can make a gift to the Access Fund; if you are interested in improving access for underprivileged or geographically isolated students, please contact Arielle Brousse at [brousse@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:brousse@writing.upenn.edu) or Jamie-Lee Josselyn at [jljossely@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:jljossely@writing.upenn.edu). **Supported annually by the KWH community.**

(Friends continued) Ellen Ervin; Daniel Evans; Elizabeth Fader; Carlos Fagundo; Jan Farr; Robert Faunce; Lauren Feinder; Harvey Feldman; Walt Fellman; William Fenrich; Megan Fenster; Meredith Fineman; Joe Finston; Oscar Firschein; David and Barbara Fishback; Marjorie Fiterman; Luellen Fletcher; Rivka Fogel; Jenny Faelten Ford; Angela Forret; Carol Forshey (in memory of Erasmo Ciccolella); Sallie Foster; Ben and Sharon Fountain; Peggy Fox; Alan and Arlene Freedman; Tovia Freedman; Louise French McCready Hart; Stephen Fried; Steve and Laura Fromm; Lise Funderburg; Roy and Vicki Gainsburg; Steven and Teresa Tong Gee; Dick Geist; Kari Gerber; Glenn Gilchrist; Seamus and Mary Ann Gilson; Jody Girgenti; Joann Girsh; Rob Gleason; Beth Goldberg; Noah Golden-Krasner; Ted and Judy Goldsmith; Alexandra Goldstein; Carol Lynn Goldstein; Mackarness Goode; Marnie Gordon; Rabbi Lauren and Jon Grabelle Herrmann; David Grazian; Daniel Greenbaum; Elisa and Clint Greenbaum; Deborah Greenberg; Lisa Greene; Michele Greene; Adele Aron Greenspun; Bruce and Karyn Greenwald; Carla Griswold; Sally Grueskin Kaplan; Joan Guenther; Jane Gutman; Alan Hall; Matthew Hall; Halpern Foundation Charitable Trust; Mary Hannahan; Dirk Hanson; William Harris; Katie, Alan, and Kim Hartman; Janet Heettner and Peter Silverman; Carine Hejazi; Steven and Tom Heller; Dina Hellerstein; Paul and Ceil Hendrickson; Leigh Hershkovich; Steve and Jane Heumann; Ann Hiestand Strong; Sheila Hillier; Sara and Ryan Hinkle; Donna, John, Rachel, and Jonathan Hoh; Robert Holland; Matthew and Kerry Holmes; Michael Hopkins; Robin Hornstein-Platt; Thomas Huang; Michael Hyde; Alix Ingber; Kathryn Itomura; Jill Ivey; (Continued on page 23)

**emily dickinson circle: \$2500**

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum; Stuart Applebaum (in honor of Lily Applebaum); Reina and Emilio Bassini; John Paul and Lina Beltran; Michael and Heidi Brodsky; Elissa Caterfino Mandel; Jean Sherman Chatzky and Eliot Kaplan; David and Laurie Cohen; Lee and Linda Eisenberg (in honor of Katherine Eisenberg's graduation); Bonnie and Cliff Eisler; Robert and Christine Friedman; Marlene and Alan Gilbert; Michael and Danielle Goldstein; Thaddeus Gray; Hank and Carol Herman; Paul and Nancy Kelly; Joan Kim; Henry and Marcy Klein; Kate Levin and Robin Shapiro; Audrey Levine; Gerald and Julie Marshall; Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan; Daniel and Miriam Morse; Daniel Nir and Jill Braufman; Bret Parker; Russell Paul and Stacy Kaplan; Brian and Jerilyn Perman; Maury Povich and Connie Chung; David and Debbie Roberts; Jim Ronca and Deb Baird; Susan Small Savitsky; Adam Sokoloff and Susan Drossman Sokoloff; Ken, Nancy, and Peter Stein; Bob and Kathy Wenger; Gary and Nina Wexler; Paul Williams; Dirk and Kirsten Wittenborn; Marc and Robin Wolpov; Judith Zarin; and Jay and Nancy Zises



Left: Greg Djanikian, Al Filreis, and Ron Silliman; right: graduation day for Ali Castleman and Anna Strong.

## endowment

**WHAT IS ENDOWMENT?** Endowment works like an investment account: we invest an initial endowment gift (the principal) so that it generates interest that may be spent or reinvested — but we never spend the principal itself. Structured this way, an endowment gift provides income, year after year, and supports the KWH *forever*.

**WHAT CAN ENDOWMENT DO?** “Endowment” merely refers to the way in which a gift is structured; the possibilities for what endowment can do are endless. Endowment gifts can be directed toward specific needs, such as annual programs, student internships, staff positions, equipment, classrooms, and more. We also have a General Endowment to which anyone can contribute that helps defray all the costs associated with running a busy arts venue.

**HOW CAN I HELP?** Making an endowment gift helps make the KWH project permanent, so we always appreciate this kind of support. It’s not necessary to make a large gift to assist our endowment effort; you can give any amount to our General Endowment. For larger gifts, we have a “wish list” of opportunities — specific projects that need your help, some of which you can also name. If you’re interested in finding out more about endowment opportunities, please contact Arielle Brousse (C’07, SPP’12), our Assistant Director for Development, at [brousse@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:brousse@writing.upenn.edu) or (215) 573-4844.

## TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT

**Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund** The Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund honors the centrality of our kitchen — a place for ridiculously good food, late-night conversations fueled by our abundant coffee, and study sessions around the old green table. Some of our favorite Kane-Wallace Kitchen food memories from the year: a Duchampian “Food Descending a Staircase,” with carved watermelon urinals and cucumber sharks; Jell-O molds studded with Swedish fish for a program themed around children’s books (*One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*); and new reception staples *à la* Alli Katz: “cheese dump” and bacon-wrapped anything/everything. **Permanently endowed by Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace.**

**Ronca-Baird Discretionary Fund** This rainy-day fund allows us to encourage student creativity and support special learning opportunities as they emerge. Flexible and open-ended, this dynamic fund is intended to help defray costs associated with student-led initiatives, research and writing projects, and all kinds of Writers House happenings. **Funded by Penn parents Jim Ronca and Deborah Baird.**

**Nir-Braufman Term Fund at Kelly Writers House** This essential fund provides annual support for otherwise unfunded KWH projects. This year, the Nir-Braufman Fund went to support the digital projects that allow us to connect to the world beyond Penn, to share our vast archive of recordings with alumni, high schoolers, teachers, and others seeking access, and to give Penn students highly-sought after experience in digital editing. Projects that depend on the Nir-Braufman Fund for operational support include: *Jacket2*, our online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics that has been accessed by people in over 200 countries; PennSound, the world’s largest archive of free, downloadable digital recordings; PennSound Radio, an offshoot of PennSound that provides streaming content 24/7; and PoemTalk, a scintillating monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis in collaboration with the Poetry Foundation. **Funded annually by Daniel Nir (C’82, W’82) and Jill Braufman.**



Virginia Seymour impersonates Max McKenna in the Hub Room.

**Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Fund for the Support of Student Creative Writing**

A stellar student who graduated from Penn's College for Women in 1955, Alice Cooper Shoulberg went on to a brilliant career as a Philadelphia public school teacher. Established in her memory, the Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Publications Room (the "Pub Room"), where students depend on computers to edit and publish their magazines. **Permanently endowed by Overbrook High School Classmates of Alice Cooper Shoulberg.**

**Class of 1999 Parents Project** In honor of the class of 1999, Penn parents elected to assist with three separate projects: Kelly Writers House, the Ellen and Howard Katz Fitness Center, and Civic House. Their gift demonstrated that Penn parents support the University's emphasis on encouraging creativity, well-being, and social responsibility. Contributions from the Class of 1999 Parents Project were directed toward our general endowment, which supports program development, student initiatives, and more.

**Faculty Director's Discretionary Fund** This fund enables Faculty Director Al Filreis to seek out, encourage, and invest in student talents and ideas. Al directed the fund this year toward summer internship opportunities, including support for Madeleine Wattenbarger (C'16), who worked at Poets House in New York, and Jess Bergman (C'14), who interned with *McSweeney's* in San Francisco. **Supported by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72), Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73), Jean Sherman Chatzky (C'86), Eliot Kaplan (C'78), Audrey Levine (C'89), and a pair of anonymous donors who made a gift in honor of Anthony DeCurtis.**

**Gordon Walls '38 Creative Ventures Fund** Through this flexible fund we support fresh initiatives and ideas, especially the creative (and sometimes outlandish) dreams of our Hub members, who constantly revitalize the KWH project with proposals for new publications, outreach programs, literary celebrations, and other community-driven projects. **Supported annually by Bill Bond, Sandy Bond, and Gordon Lane Bond (C'06).**

(Friends continued) Susan B. Iwanisziw; Jake Jacobson; Carolyn Jacobson and Erik Simpson; Sherry Jeffe; Kevin Johnson; David and Teresa Jones; Alexandra Jordan; Pierre Joris; Jeffrey David and Shea Jubelirer; Eleanor Kane; Cynthia Kaplan; Eric Karlan; Caryn Karmatz and Lee Rudy; Carole Karsch; Melissa Kasper Shapiro; Dick and Kathy Katz; Joel and Penny Katz; Donald Keim; Betty Kellner Davis; Edward Kelly; Andrew Kevorkian; Madora Kibbe; Janice Kimenhour; Grayson and Jennifer Kirtland; Heather Kitteringham; Nancy Klee; Clifford Klein; Eric and Jamie Klein; Jean-Marie Kneeley (in honor of Al Filreis on his birthday); Mitch Kohn (in memory of Nora Magid); Lois Kohn-Claar and Gary Claar; Deborah Komins; Joshua Kornreich; Peter and Dorothy Kowey; Scott Kraft and Nadine Van Der Velde; Janet Kralovec; Bonnie Krasnow Hagan; Stephen and Stina Krewson; Chris Kriesen; Andrea Kushnick Rubin; Beth Kwon; James La Marre; Jim and Susan La Marre; Sherman and Pauline Labovitz; Jerrold Lakoff; Colleen Larsen; Michael Laszlo; Richard Lawrence; Kate Lee; Honoré Lehtinen; Jeff Leider; Veronica Lemcoff; Sanaë Lemoine; Gabriella Lenti; Ruth Lepson; Lynn Levin; Sandra Levine (in honor of Erasmo Ciccolella); Michelle Levister; Joanne Lichtman; Russel Like; Ronald Litman; Janet Reis, Robert, and Jordan Lowe; Jessica Lowenthal; Virginia Lucas; Ken Lum; Mark Maas; Allison MacDonald; John Majane; Kate Majd; Dea Z. Mallin; Linda Mallon and John Mueller; Arlene Mandell; Roberta Mandrekas; Alex Marcus; Alan Margolis; Nicoletta Marini-Maio; Maria Markovich; Randi Marshall; Marcia and Sarah Martinez-Helfman; Cindy and Scott Matte; Anne Matter; Don Matzkin; Cecile Mazzucco-Tham, Ph.D.; Murray McComas; Elizabeth McDonnell; Mick and Anne McKenna; Barbara Ann McKenzie; David McKnight; Holly and Kevin McLaughlin; Thea McLennan; Tammy McLeod; Ann Marie Meehan; John Meehan; Harriet Melrose; Loren Mendell; Nikki Mendell;

(Continued on page 25)

**william carlos williams circle: \$1000**

Eileen Baird (in honor of Kelly Diamond's graduation and Jim Ronca's birthday); Allan and Dale Bell; Armyan and Christine Bernstein; Annalise Carol; Richard and Lucy Oh Cook; Tom and Carrie Cusack; Bob and Marcia D'Augustine (in honor of Allie Morgan D'Augustine); Cheryl Family and Ken Saji; Marcus Giancaterino; Caroline Gittis Werther and Dan Werther; Norm Glickman and Elyse Pivnick; Jon and Mindy Gray; Harry and Lyn Groome; Adam Groothuis; Diane Jacobs; Ken Karlan; Elizabeth and Andrew Lustbader; Frederick and Elizabeth Muller; Marjorie Perloff; David Sussman; Philip and Jane Weingold; and Andy Wolk



Left: Andrew Beal working at his desk; right: ModPo students convening for a discussion session at KWH.

## EVENTS & PROGRAMS

**Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund** The Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund allows us to host conversations with editors and publishers we admire, people who curate, refine, and disseminate the writing we read and enjoy. This year, the Applebaum Fund brought us the editors of *Full Stop* magazine for a panel discussion, moderated by Max McKenna (C'10), about the evolution of print media and what it might mean for our intellectual culture. **Permanently endowed by Irwyn Applebaum (C'75) and Lucy Applebaum.**

**Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund** It's riveting when *Rolling Stone* editor Anthony DeCurtis interviews a rock legend for an audience of fifty in our Arts Café — and that's just what the Blutt Fund makes possible. This year's symposium featured Loudon Wainwright III, who even pulled out his guitar to play a few licks from his new album, *Older Than My Old Man Now*. **Permanently endowed by Mitchell Blutt (C'78, M'82, L'84, Trustee 1998-2008) and Margo Blutt.**

**Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund** The Bok Fund enables us to celebrate the full range of contemporary writing at KWH by allowing us to pay honoraria to an astounding number of poets, novelists, translators, essayists, screenwriters, comedians, and other kinds of writers, year after year. This year's series included speculative novelist Tom Fitzgerald; poets Seth Landman, Paul Legault, Pattie McCarthy, Mark Nowak, Stephen Ratcliffe, and Jordan Stempleman; novelist Olympia Vernon; Lambda finalist Rafe Posey; activist Darnell Moore; culture critic Kyle Bella; scholar Rachel Glaser; and playwrights Matt Ocks and Genne Murphy. **Permanently endowed by KWH Board Members Roxanne Bok (C'81) and Scott Bok (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005–present).**

**Fund for Feminist Projects** We're proud of the students who run our Feminism/s series, which is supported by the Fund for Feminist Projects. Through engaging and sometimes challenging programming, series curators Josh Herren (C'13) and Arielle Pardes (C'14) explore how writing, art, criticism, and political action can enact social change. Events this year included an interview (conducted by Josh) with playwright Joshua Conkel and a writing workshop (organized by Arielle) with erotica writer Rachel Kramer Bussel. **Permanently endowed by an anonymous donor.**

**Cheryl J. Family Fund for Fiction Programming** The Cheryl J. Family Fund sponsors an annual reading by an up-and-coming novelist. This year, we celebrated Ariel Djanikian (C'04), who read from her debut novel, *The Office of Mercy*. During the reading, Ariel's husband Phil Sandick (C'03 CGS'06) — who met her at the Writers House! — rocked their baby girl, Elaina, in the back of the room. **Permanently endowed by KWH Board Member Cheryl J. Family (C'91).**

**Sylvia W. Kauders Fund** The Kauders Fund allows us to arrange a series of intimate lunch programs, typically featuring writers of nonfiction, and we're thrilled that Sylvia Kauders (class of 1942!) makes a special effort to attend as many as she can. This year's Kauders series offerings included a talk about the art and responsibility of creative nonfiction by *New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Coleman. **Permanently endowed by Sylvia Kauders (CW'42).**

**The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer** The Levin Endowed Fund allows our Program Coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. For this year's Bernheimer Symposium, Program Coordinator Alli Katz featured the team behind Locust Moon Press, publishers of the comics anthology *Once Upon a Time Machine*, a project that commissioned collaborative re-imaginings of famous fairy tales. **Permanently endowed by Kate Levin (GAS'96) in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Bernheimer.**

**The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment** We partner with WXPB 88.5 FM (xpn.org) to produce a monthly one-hour radio show. Hosted by radio personality Michaela Majoun, and produced by KWH Program Coordinator Alli Katz, "LIVE at the Writers House" showcases some of the most exciting up-and-comers in the Philly lit scene. Among the shows produced this year: a celebration of Quirk Books, a selection of readers from Philly lit-mag favorite *Apiary*, and a collection of "Philly Love Notes." **Permanently endowed by BigRoc.**



Poet Jena Osman and visual artist Amze Emmons.

**The Bob Lucid Memorial Fund** Robert “Bob” Lucid was a visionary teacher and mentor, whose far-reaching pedagogy helped inspire and structure our literary community. Friends of the Writers House established this fund in his memory, allowing us to host an annual fiction program that pays tribute to Bob as an inspiration to all of us. This year’s program was a reading by Pushcart Prize-winning writer Ben Marcus, who shared passages from his new novel, *The Flame Alphabet*. **Permanently endowed by Susan Small Savitsky (CW’75) and Ed Kane (C’71).**

**Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund** The single largest programming gift in Writers House history, the Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund endows our nonfiction programming, a range of events that include readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, memoirists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Among our most popular Povich Series projects are lunchtime talks with journalists hosted by faculty member Dick Polman. Dick’s guests this season included Amanda Bennett. Another perennial favorite among students is our “Careers in Journalism” panel, which typically features a star-studded panel of Penn alumni. This year’s panel included Matt Flegenheimer (C’11) of the *New York Times*; Melody Kramer (C’06), formerly of NPR’s Fresh Air; Ruth Davis Konigsberg (C’90), senior editor at *TIME*; Stephen Fried (C’79), journalism professor at Columbia’s J-School; and moderator Eliot Kaplan (C’78), executive director of talent acquisition at Hearst Magazines. **Permanently endowed by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung.**

**The Caroline Rothstein Fund in Support of Oral Poetry** With the help of the Rothstein Fund we explore the oral tradition poetry in its many forms — performance poetry, sound poetry, spoken word, and more. This year’s featured performer was Caroline Rothstein (for whom the fund is named). Caroline’s set included moving pieces about eating disorder recovery. Current Excelano Project members Hannah Van Sciver (C’13) and Victoria Ford (C’15) opened the evening. **Permanently endowed by Penn parents Nancy (CW’75) and Steven Rothstein in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C’06).**

**Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Fund** We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman — beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse — with an annual poetry program. This year’s inaugural event featured memorable readings by a trio of local talents, Nathalie Anderson, Joan Landis, and Elaine Terranova. Robinson Press Coordinator Henry Steinberg (C’13) made a letterpressed program to commemorate the occasion. **Permanently endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse in memory of Daniel’s grandparents Eva and Leo Sussman.**

(Friends continued) Guenevere Mesco, Esq.; Ken and Jennie Meskin; Mary Ann Meyers; Margy Ellin Meyerson; Martin Michlik (in honor of Erasmo Ciccolella); Madelyn Mignatti; Gerald and Harriet Miller; Ilana Miller; Michael Miller; Antonietta Monaldi; Nick Montfort; Seara Moon; Nanette Moore; Milton and Barbara Moritz; Steven and Melissa Moritz and the Moritz Family; Michelle Morouse; Deborah and Kevin Murphy; Sara Murphy; Panna Naik; Kiri Nakamura; Sarah Nanus; Elinor Nathanson; Bob and Peggy Natiello; Kathleen Naureckas; Melanie Neilson; Aaron Nelson and Margaret O’Connor; Cory Newman; Alexander Newmark; Quynh Trang Nguyen; Margaretta Noonan; James Nooney; John Norton; Bob Numerof and Robert Shepard (in honor of Monica Wesolowska); Andee and Bob Oley; Alicia Oltuski; Susie Orman Schnall; Mark Osele; Ashley Parker; Rachel Pastan; Ashlee Paxton-Turner; Brigitte Pellat; Wen Ling Peng; Walter Peterson; Jerry Petty; Nancy Pickard; Arthur Pier; Caroline Pitofsky; Neil Plakcy; Irene and Richard Plotzker; Dick Polman and Elise Vider; Phelps Pond, Jr.; Therese Pope; Maria Popova; Simona Popova; Mark Poster; Rrain Prior; Evan Raine; Christine Ramsey (in honor of William Owen); William and Nancy Rassiga Tripp; Michael Ratner and Karen Ranucci; Michael Rauch; Kathie Regan Dalzell; Virginia Reid; Kiera Reilly; Hillary Reinsberg; Carole Repici; David Richman; Nola Ridl; Maria Rieders; Hadley Davis and Lee Rierson; Karen Rile and Laurance Smith; Peter John Riley; Randy Ringer; Leah Robertson; Andy Robinson; Franklyn and Cintra Rodgers; Martin Rogers; Peter Rogers; Bill Rood; Cindy and Neil Rosenbaum; Matthew Rosenbaum; Jared Rosenberg; Lindsey Rosin; Libby Rosof and Murray Dubin; Valerie Ross; Steven Roth; Caroline Rothstein; Molly and Randy Rothstein; Dan Rottenberg; Ruth Sackner; Harry Saffren; Markus Sakoschek; Anita Salustro; Daniel and Pamela Salzman; Howard and Joan Sandick; Philip Sandick and Ariel Djanikian; Michael and Ellen Sandler; Robert Sandler; Cindy and Robert Savett; Mónica Savirón; Suellen Savukas; Jonathan Saxon; JoAnna Scandiffio; Nina Schafer; Jim Schaffer; Karin Schaller and John Puckett; Susan Scheid; Karen Schiff; Melissa Schiffman; Christopher Schoen; Dan Schorr; Ernest Schreiber; Bob and Rhonda Schwartz; Lawrence Schwartzwald; Liz Seeley; Annette Seidenglanz; Suzanne Sergile, M.D.; Josephine Seutter; Helen Sewell Johnson; Samantha Sharf; Sarah Sharpless; John and Karen Shea; Ron Sherman; Doro Shin; Carol Shlifer Clapp; Cindy Shmerler and Ford Levy; Genevieve Shore; Hedvah Shuchman; Henry and Talia Siegel; Paul Silverman; Robert Silverman; Debra Silverman and Jeffrey Marcus (in honor of Alex Marcus); Caroline Simon; David and Barbara Simon; Elaine Simon and David Crawford; Rebecca Singh; David Skeel; David Slarskey; Ward and Carolyn Smith; Barry and Judith Solar; Steve Sosnick; Bill Speer;

(Continued on page 27)

## Writers House New York

Every year we venture beyond Philadelphia to share Writers House talent with out-of-town friends. It's Writers House — inventive writing, spirited conversation, and good food — but on the road, in the homes and businesses of generous, welcoming hosts.

For over a decade, **Susan and Louis Meisel** have welcomed us into their SoHo gallery for our annual "Writers House New York" fundraiser. This year, Hurricane Sandy pounded New York, putting many businesses out of commission, including the gorgeous Meisel Gallery. Determined to keep up tradition, our gracious and steadfast hosts insisted we reschedule as soon as possible, once they'd gotten their space back in order. And so in January the Meisels threw open their doors for 100 KWH friends and helped raise nearly \$2,000 in support of our Student Recruitment Fund. Featured readers included poet and self-professed Dickinsonian **Nick DeFina** (C'16); *Philadelphia City Paper* intern and nonfiction writer **Jess Bergman** (C'14); KWH Junior Fellow and ICA Spiegel Fellow **Grace Ambrose** (C'11); veteran journalist **Rick Nichols**; and director of Penn's Creative Writing Program **Gregory Djanikian** (C'71). All Filreis engaged attendees in a (very!) close reading of an eight-word poem by William Carlos Williams.

### The Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Fund

The Weber Fund allows us to explore the art of clear business writing; our annual Weber Symposium features a prominent business or financial writer with a knack for lucid prose. For our fourth annual event, we invited James Surowiecki, writer of the *New Yorker's* insightful "Financial Page" and author of *The Wisdom of Crowds*. Permanently endowed by Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.

**The Wexler Fund for Programs at the Kelly Writers House** The Wexler Fund supports all kinds of initiatives, allowing students and others to think creatively about what can happen in our space. This year, the fund brought us the important but polarizing writer David Shields, whose most recent book, *How Literature Saved My Life*, blends criticism, anthropology, and biography to celebrate the power of literature. Permanently endowed by KWH Advisory Board members Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.

**Wexler Family Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture** The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. In March, the fund allowed us to host a riveting conversation with Guatemalan novelist Eduardo Halfon, who discussed his acclaimed novel, *The Polish Boxer*, in which Halfon's alter-ego, a writer with an uneasy relationship to his own Jewishness, is fascinated by the story of the eponymous "Polish boxer" who saved his grandfather from Auschwitz. Permanently endowed by Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.

**Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers** Thanks to globally minded faculty and students and the financial support of our Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers, we can offer programming that is truly world-class. Our Writers Without Borders series this year featured Iranian philosopher Reza Negarestani, British conceptual artist Simon Morris, and Russian-American poets Matvei Yankelovich and Eugene Ostashevsky. The Ginns Fund also supported two live tapings of the national radio program "Cross Cultural Poetics," typically produced in the studios of KAOS-FM at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Funded annually by Seth Ginns (C'00).



Photos top to bottom: students enjoy a program in the Arts Cafe; Speakeasy hosts Rosa Escandon and Isa Oliveres; Penn "time bank" founder Shivani Srivastav; Jack Nessman designs a calendar thanks to computers provided by the Alice Cooper Shoulberg Fund.

Later in the spring semester we returned to New York for a living room salon hosted by Penn parents **Philip and Jane Weingold**. Philip and Jane welcomed an intimate gathering of friends into their lovely Upper East Side home, offering refreshments personally catered by legendary restaurateur **Pino Luongo**. (Our hosts know Writers House well enough by now to know that we love to eat.) Nora Prize-winning nonfiction writer **Joe Pinsker** (C'13) shared an essay about attending the Bathtub Beer festival, for which — he assured the parents of new students in attendance — he did the research when he was of legal age. **Lizzy Weingold** (C'16) read a hilarious piece about the first time she consented to hold hands with a boy. Special guest **Mónica Savirón**, a Spanish-born filmmaker, offered a moving story about how ModPo — our free and open online poetry course — took her life and career in a thrilling new direction. Poet and letterpress artist **Henry Steinberg** (C'13) shared a part of his senior Creative Writing thesis, a collage poem paying tribute to his great-grandfather. And Creative Writing faculty member, screenwriter, and novelist **Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve** read an excerpt from an unpublished young adult novel series that re-imagines *The Sword in the Stone* set in present-day South Jersey. Attendees stayed on late into the evening to participate in a close reading of Emily Dickinson's "I Taste a Liquor Never Brewed," and to chat with their fellow guests over sky-high key-lime tartlets.

(Friends continued) Gail Spiegel Cohen (in honor of Jonathan D. Cohen C'09 and Stephanie Cohen C'13); Barbara Spitz; Victoria Stafford; Clarice Stasz; Thomas Staudter; Peter Stein; Harris and Jane Steinberg; David Stern and Kathryn Hellerstein; Byron and Janet Stier; Eric Stone; Eileen Streight; Lynn Strother; Ryan James Sullivan; Susan Supak; David Sweet; Thomasina Tafur; Pamela Takefman; Michael Tarnow; Lisa Tauber; Elaine Terranova; Deborah Thompson; Angela Thomson-Brenchley; Barbara Tilley (in honor of Dr. Lorene Cary); Leigh Toal Esposito; Alex Tokar; Jane Treuhaft; Susan Troccoli; David Ulin; Ellen Umansky and David Gutman; Susan Van Nostrand and Kevin Ambrose; John and Lucy Vosmek; Christine Vroome; Harry Waitzman; Aaron Walker; Jean Warshaw; Heather Watson; Meredith Weber; Stacey and Jeff Weber (in memory of Howard Miller and Joan Miller); George and Carol Weinbaum; Carly Weinreb; Sharon and Elliott Weinstein; David Weiss and Maureen Cowie; Liliane Weissberg; Daniella Wexler; Wendy and Larry White; Andrew Whiteman; Eleanor Wilner; Barbara Winter; Samantha Wishman; Deirdre Woods and David Richard Silver; Charles Wright; Amy Wruble; Jessica Yu; Henry and Judy Zachs; Judy and Harvey Zalesne; Elayne Zalis; Susan Zimmerman and David Weil; and Michael Zuckerman and Sharon Holt.



## Become a Friend

Free readings and workshops by contemporary writers. Coffee percolating in the kitchen. Conversations in the garden. Books for sale by visiting writers at a discounted price at many readings. Online archives of live performances by eminent American authors. All of these things and more are funded through the annual donations of our many Friends.

The Kelly Writers House seeks the support of our friends and potential friends to help us raise what people in the fundraising business call "term support" — small-and middle-sized gifts that will offset the costs of our programs in the immediate and near future.

Will you help us protect and sustain the Writers House project? Please choose a level of support, send a check, and we will immediately list you as among our "Friends." Your gift will be acknowledged in our electronic *Annual*, which is available at all times on our web site: [writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/friends.php](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/friends.php). If you wish to remain anonymous, that's fine; you can also request that we publish your gift in dedication to, or in memory of, others.

To become a friend, please fill out this form and send it with your check to:

The Kelly Writers House  
3805 Locust Walk  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150  
Attention: Jessica Lowenthal, Director

Please make checks payable to "Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania" and be sure to jot "Kelly Writers House" on the memo line.

- \$40
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- William Carlos Williams Circle \$1000
- Emily Dickinson Circle \$2500
- Please send me more information about additional giving opportunities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your or another's name as you would like it to appear on the Kelly Writers House web site:

For more information about the specific programs and projects at the Writers House, please visit our website:  
[writing.upenn.edu/wh/support](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh/support).

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KWH Annual designed by Zach Carduner (zcard@writing.upenn.edu)  
Photos by Arielle Brousse and KWH Staff