May-lee Chai’s latest book, the 2nd edition of *China A to Z* (co-authored with Winberg Chai), was released in December. This 2015 edition is expanded and revised and features 50 percent new content.

She has reviewed two novels for the Dallas Morning News: Miriam Toews’ *All My Puny Sorrows* and Anne Tyler’s *A Spool of Blue Thread*. In addition, May-lee’s essay “Neon” has been accepted by *Gulf Coast* and will be appearing in the summer/fall issue.

Congratulations, May-lee!

David Gessner’s newest book *All the Wild That Remains* (releasing in April 2015) was nominated for a 2015 Kirkus Prize in nonfiction—one of the richest literary awards in the world, with an award of $50,000. Read the starred Kirkus review [here](#), and a StarNews article [here](#).

An excerpt from the book appears in Orion at [orionmagazine.org/article/edward-abbey-fbi-file](orionmagazine.org/article/edward-abbey-fbi-file), along with a follow-up blog post.

Congratulations, David!

Lynn Watson received honorable mention in *The Lindenwood’s Review*’s flash fiction contest for her piece, “We Passed Upon The Stair.”

Congratulations, Lynn!

Michael White’s memoir *Travels in Vermeer* was named a “best book” by *Publisher’s Weekly*; read more [here](#).

Congratulations, Michael!
BFA students Kelsey Berish and Naomi Spicer published reflections of their internships at Brooklyn Arts Center at St. Andrews. Their writing appeared in the January 14, 2015, edition of the arts center’s newsletter.

Congratulations, Kelsey and Naomi!

BFA student Paula Eames published “A Butterfly Effect” in the December issue of Foliate Oak.

Congratulations, Paula!


Congratulations, Shannon!

MFA student Jonathan Russell Clark has a review on Ali Smith’s How To Be Both up on The Rumpus, as well as a review on Little, Brown’s The David Foster Wallace Reader on The Millions.

Congratulations, Jonathan!
MFA student Alexa Doran’s sestina “Pretty Young Thing: A Translation” and her poem “Untvanna” were accepted for publication in *The James Franco Review*.

Alexa’s poem “Wendy Darling Adopts the Slogan ‘Do or Die’” is forthcoming in *Cactus Heart*.

Congratulations, Alexa!

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Jason also has a review on *Creative Nonfiction*’s recent anthology and a review of Peter Fromm’s *If Not For This* on NewPages.com.

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MFA student Cathe Shubert covered “the white writer’s duty to tackle racism in literature given the aftermath of Ferguson, the somewhat murky process for selecting the ‘best’ literature according to the National Book Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, and, most recently, the media’s complicated response to the brutal Charlie Hedbo killings” on ‘Round Down’ at *Ploughshares*’ blog, where she analyzes and otherwise breaks down the latest in literary news.

You can read her analyses here.

Congratulations, Cathe!

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MFA student Pernille Smith’s poem “T. Rextasy” appears on *Madcap Review*. The poem also placed third in the Jim Stone Memorial Contest of the *Springfield Writers’ Guild 2014 Literary Awards*.

Congratulations, Pernille!
MFA student Emily Wilson’s poem, “Portrait: Frank and Gladys Vlach, my great-grandparents on their wedding day,” appears in Rust + Moth. UNCW alum John Mortara (’13) selected one of her poems to appear in Big Lucks, a literary journal, when he was featured as a guest editor.

Congratulations, Emily!

MFA student Jon Wallin has a poem, “feeling unobservant around a woman,” up on LEVELER.

Congratulations, Jon!

BFA alum Samantha Freda (’11), whose focus in the program was Nonfiction, has been selected to work as the Managing Editor of a progressive magazine in Kosovo, in the capital city of Prishtina.

Congratulations, Samantha!

MFA alum Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams (’07) has an essay forthcoming in Southern Humanities Review called “Dog and Wolf: the Time Between (Essay as Ideolocator).” She is also giving, as an SHR contributor, a reading and teaching a Master Class at Auburn University.

Another one of her essays, “If We Were Really There,” appears in Tethered by Letters, Issue 9.

Hannah was featured in Wrightsville Beach Magazine’s January “14 under 40” special. She will be giving a reading to the Latino Book Club on February 28th.

Congratulations, Hannah!
MFA alum Regina Diperna’s (‘13) poem, “Where My Body Has Been,” was named one of Boston Review’s 20 Top Poems of 2014.

Congratulations, Regina!

MFA alum (‘13) Jeremy Hawkins’ book The Last Days of Video (to be released in March 2015) received a starred Kirkus review and is therefore nominated for the 2015 Kirkus Prize in fiction!

Join him at his book launch event at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill, NC on March 10.

Congratulations, Jeremy!

MFA alum Ben R. Hoffman (‘13) received a nice review for his chapbook Together, Apart in Necessary Fiction. Read it at necessaryfiction.com/reviews/TogetherApartbyBenHoffman.

Congratulations, Ben!

MFA alum Sally J. Johnson’s (‘14) essay, “Breastwork,” was chosen as a finalist for Sycamore Review’s Wabash Prize in Nonfiction, judged by Leslie Jamison. The essay will be published in their spring issue.

In addition, Electric Cereal published five of Sally’s poems; her poem “The Lavender and Thyme” was published by DIALOGIST; Spoon River Poetry Review Issue 39.2 features her poem, “keeping;” and The Manifest Station published her poem, “Fragment.”

Congratulations, Sally!
MFA alum Katie Jones (’14) has a poem, “When We Met During Prohibition,” featured on LEVELER.

Congratulations, Katie!

MFA alum Keith Kopka (’11) has a poem out in the latest edition of Day One, a weekly literary journal from Amazon.

Congratulations, Keith!

MFA alum Amelia Morris (’09) announces the release of Bon Appétempt: A Coming-of-Age Story. See the book trailer at her award-winning blog (which launched the book deal!), bonappetempt.com/2015/01/the-book-trailer.html. She’ll be giving a reading at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh on February 14th at 2pm.

Congratulations, Amelia!

MFA alum John Mortara’s (’13) poem, “Favorite Ghost,” appears on Juked. Also, two poems appear on Word Riot; hear John read them at wordriot.org/archives/7689.

John is the creator and editor of Voicemail Poems. Read more about John and his experimental book SMALL CREATURES/WIDE FIELD in this experimental interview.

Congratulations, John!
MFA alum Jason Newport’s (‘12) short story, “Karen,” has been published in *Knee-Jerk Magazine.*

Congratulations, Jason!

MFA alum Rebecca Petruck’s (‘07) *Steering Toward Normal* (Abrams/Amulet) won a Blue Ribbon as a Best Book of 2014 awarded by *The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books,* one of the leading children’s book review journals for school and public libraries.

She will be teaching a one-day course, *Writing A Picture Book,* at Cape Fear Community College on Saturday, February 1, and another, *Writing Novels for Kids and Teens,* on Tuesday evenings February 17-March 24.

Congratulations, Rebecca!

MFA alum Erika Sklar (‘14) has an essay, “Tracking Down,” published on *The Activity Report: Adventure Within.*

Congratulations, Erika!

MFA alum Anna B. Sutton’s (‘13) thesis was a semifinalist for the Persea Books *Lexi Rudnitsky Poetry Prize.*

She has poetry included in *Tinderbox* and *Southeast Review.* In addition, she had a piece of flash creative nonfiction published on *The Collagist,* and another piece of flash CNF published by *Brevity Mag.* She has poems forthcoming in *Copper Nickel* and *Third Coast.*

Anna spoke on a panel—along with MFA alum Meg Reid (‘12)!—for Hub City’s The Writing Show. Watch the video [here](#).

Congratulations, Anna!
The February issue of Wilmington’s *Salt* magazine features a wealth of Creative Writing folks. Regular columnists include faculty members Clyde Edgerton and Virginia Holman, and MFA alums Lavonne Adams (‘99), Anne Barnhill (‘01), Jason Frye (‘05), Dana Sachs (‘00), and Barbara Sullivan (‘11).

A link to the digital magazine is here: [http://www.saltmagazinenc.com](http://www.saltmagazinenc.com).

*Phil Furia* hosts the daily segment ‘The Great American Songbook’ on WHQR 1:30-2:00pm, and during the *Morning Edition* on Fridays at 6:00am.

*Philip Gerard* is a regular commentator on WHQR—listen to his broadcast segments every other Thursday at 7:35a, 8:50a, or 5:45p, or online in the WHQR Thursday Commentaries at [www.whqr.org/people/philip-gerard](http://www.whqr.org/people/philip-gerard).

Philip Gerard is featured this month in *Our State* magazine with his next installment of the series “The Civil War: Life in North Carolina.” This rich and complex story will continue monthly through May 2015 and can be read at [ourstate.com/civil-war](http://ourstate.com/civil-war). Listen to an interview about the series [here](http://ourstate.com/civil-war).

“The war magnified the best and the worst of the human spirit and bequeathed us a legacy that, a century and a half later, we still ponder.”