Happy New Year! One of our resolutions has been to complete a brief new video that celebrates the character of our department, our MFA program and our people. We are proud of what we've built here over the past 16 years. We embed the link http://youtu.be/1seclqBb4jY and invite you to take a few minutes to get to know us better.

Recently retired faculty member (and MFA alumna) Lavonne J. Adams has a poem, “Every Mother’s Lament,” in the current issue of Tar River Poetry.

She also has an essay, “Memorial Day,” on the Connotation Press website.

Congratulations, Lavonne!

Clyde Edgerton will be the next recipient of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Thomas Wolfe Literary Award for his “contributions to the literature of South and Beyond.” The award will be presented to Clyde in early October during a hugely attended two-day celebration in Chapel Hill.

Congratulations, Clyde!

MFA student Christina Clark has a poem, “Aunt L,” in the tenth issue of Cactus Heart, an e-journal.

Congratulations, Christina!
MFA student Jonathan Russell Clark has a review of Tony Hoagland’s new essay collection on *The Rumpus*, a review of Azar Nafisi’s “Republic of Imagination” on *The Millions*, a book review on PANK’s blog, and a review of Kristina Marie Darling’s “Fortress” up at *Tarpaulin Sky*.

Another one of Jonathan’s reviews was recently accepted at *The Georgia Review* and should be in their spring 2015 issue. He will also have an essay on Hilda Doolittle in the summer issue of *Tin House*.

Congratulations, Jonathan!

MFA student Catherine Miller’s story “Tomorrow I’ll Miss You”—originally published in YARN (Young Adult Review Network) in June—has been nominated for a Pushcart prize. The piece was first workshopped in Nina de Gramont’s fall 2013 fiction course, ‘Writing for Young Adults.’

Congratulations, Catey!

MFA student Beth Roddy’s flash fiction piece, "ONE MAN’S TRASH," has been shortlisted for the MASH Stories Competition #5.

Beth also is the winner of the Gabriele Rico Nonfiction Challenge for her essay “Single Worst Book” about her father’s memoir. The essay will be published in *REED magazine*. In addition, she has been accepted to participate in the Vermont Studio Center’s residency program for four weeks this summer.

Congratulations, Beth!

MFA student Cathe Shubert will be presenting a project on silence and literature at the Embodiments Research Group conference in Cornwall, England this July.

Congratulations, Cathe!
MFA student Jacqueline Winter Thomas’s manuscript, “(room, field, sky),” was a finalist in the *Heavy Feather Review 2014 chapbook contest*.

Congratulations, Jacqueline!

MFA student Emily Wilson’s poem “A Train in a Dream” appears in the latest *Green Mountains Review*.

In addition, Emily’s poem, “Postcard I almost send to an almost lover” was anthologized by *The Bohemyth* in their “Best Of, So Far” edition, which highlighted certain pieces from the past two years, including work from MFA alum John Mortara (′14).

Congratulations, Emily (& John)!

BFA student Marissa Flanagan was named the 2014 recipient of the *N.C. Soros Scholarship* in Creative Writing. Marissa’s writing concentration is fiction, and she is enrolled in the Certificate Publishing Program.

Congratulations, Marissa!

BFA alum Ryan Spooner (′09) released his first book, a collection of essays called *Regret*, in December from The Lettered Streets Press. The book received a nice review in *The Huffington Post*.

Congratulations, Ryan!
MFA alum Daisy Barringer ('06) was recently hired as *Thrillist’s* San Francisco Editor where she writes articles about everything from “The Worst Decisions You Can Make in SF” to “How to Sneak Booze into Music Festivals.” She’s sure her Pulitzer Prize is coming annnny day now.

Congratulations, Daisy!

MFA alum Emma Bolden ('05) was selected as the 2014 Barthelme Prize for Short Prose winner for her piece, “Gifted” by *Gulf Coast Literary Journal*.

Congratulations, Emma!

MFA alumn Daren Dean’s ('03) novel *Far Beyond the Pale* will be released by Fiction Southeast Press in May 2015.

*Fiction Southeast* also recently published two of Daren’s pieces: “The Heavenly Language” and “Why I Write.”

Congratulations, Daren!


Congratulations, Shawna!
MFA alum Gwendolyn Knapp’s (‘06) memoir of essays, *After a While You Just Get Used to It: A Tale of Family Clutter*, is forthcoming from Gotham Books in June.

Congratulations, Gwen!

MFA alum Kyle Mustain’s (‘12) long-form lyric essay, “The Opposite of Suicide,” in which he interweaves his experiences working as a substitute teacher at the same high school he attended as a teenager with his musings on bullying, school shootings, and education, appears in the winter issue of *The Writing Disorder*.

Congratulations, Kyle!

MFA alum Jason Newport (‘12) has a flash fiction/nonfiction hybrid piece, “Sharpie,” in the new issue of *Cleaver Magazine*.

Congratulations, Jason!

MFA alum Eric Tran’s (‘13) nonfiction piece, “Methods of Anonymity,” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Redivider*.

Eric was also named a runner up in *Redivider*’s November flash nonfiction contest for his piece, “Syllabus for Knowing the Human Body.”

Congratulations, Eric!
The January 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.”