Congratulations to Creative Writing contributors and notables included in *Best American Essays 2014*:

- **Wendy Brenner**’s “Strange Beads,” originally published in *Oxford American*, no. 81, is an included essay in *Best American Essays 2014*. (The book received a starred pre-publication review from *Publishers Weekly*, which singled out Wendy’s essay!)

- **Philip Gerard**’s narrative essay, “Freedom Fighter,” was named a Notable Essay. This is the second in the series that has been so honored. The essay was originally published in *Our State Magazine* in March of 2013.

- **David Gessner**’s essay, “Meet the Keatles,” originally published in *Oxford American*, no. 81, was named a Notable Essay.


- **John Jeremiah Sullivan**, local author and frequent visiting writer in the Department of Creative Writing, is the guest editor and penned the introduction of *Best American Essays 2014*.

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*Taken from an image of the book cover.*

**Karen E. Bender**, the fall 2014 Distinguished Visiting Writer in the Creative Writing Department, will read at UNCW on Thursday, **October 16 at 7:00 p.m.** in Kenan Hall Room 1111. More information [here](#).

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**Michael White**, chair of the Creative Writing Department, has published a new, award-winning poetry book entitled *Vermeer in Hell*. The book was selected by Persea Books as the winner of its annual Lexi Rudnitsky Editor’s Prize. David Baker, poet and editor of The Kenyon Review, had this to say about *Vermeer in Hell*: "In this masterful poet’s hands...each poem is given to us with the delicacy and durability of Vermeer himself." For more information, see [perseabooks.com/detail.php?bookID=114](http://perseabooks.com/detail.php?bookID=114). Michael White will give a reading and book-signing on Thursday, **October 30 at 7:00 p.m.** at UNCW in Kenan Hall (KE 1111).
MFA student Alexa Doran has been named a finalist in the Puerto del Sol poetry contest for her poem, “After you can an artist can.” She has also been selected as a finalist in the Fairy Tale Review Contest for her poem, “Peter Pan on the Problem of Pillow Talk.”

Congratulations, Alexa!

MFA student Elizabeth Davis will have two of her poems featured in the October 2014 issue of Prick of the Spindle: "En route to their weekly parental visit, three foster children eat muscadines" and "Your Carolina home, as it finally falls in."

Congratulations, Liz!

MFA student Dina Greenberg’s flash fiction piece, “Bambino,” has been accepted for publication in the fall 2014 issue of Existere (UK).

Congratulations, Dina!


Congratulations, Mitch!
MFA student Catherine Shubert has been offered a bi-monthly Literary Round Down post blogging for *Ploughshares*.

Congratulations, Cathe!

MFA student Emily Wilson’s poems “Intonation” and “for Pražský: Prague Astronomical Clock” have been accepted for publication in *PANK*. In addition, Emily’s poem, “to Karlův Most: Charles Bridge,” is in the latest issue of *491*, and her poem "Postcard I almost send to an almost lover" will be published in the October issue of *The Bohemyth*.

Congratulations, Emily!

MFA student Bethany Tap’s short piece, “For Your Studies,” appears in issue 3 of *The Barking Sycamore*.

Congratulations, Bethany!

MFA alum Samantha Deal (’14) has been named a finalist for the *Anhinga Press’s Robert Dana Poetry Prize*. In addition, she has been named a semifinalist for the *2014 Akron Poetry Prize* for her poem, “Taxonomies / Something Opened.” Samantha was also selected as a finalist out of nearly 3,000 entries in the *2014 Rattle Poetry Prize* for her poem, “Taxonomy of an Automobile Accident,” and will be published in the winter issue of *Rattle* this December.

Congratulations, Sam!
MFA alum Rochelle Hurt’s (’11) poem, “Hallucinate with Bees,” appears on Green Mountains Review. She also has two poems, “Self-Portrait in Imlalone, Wisconsin,” and “Self-Portrait in Miracle, Kentucky,” in the current issue of The Florida Review (Vol. 38, No. 1 & 2).

Congratulations, Rochelle!

MFA alum Katie Jones (’14) has two poems, “The Dunes are Stardust” and “The Quick And The Dead,” in the fall 2014 issue of The Boiler Journal.

Congratulations, Katie!

MFA alum Jeremy Morris (’14) was named a finalist for the Crab Orchard Poetry First Book Award.

Congratulations, Jeremy!

MFA alum Kyle Mustain’s (’12) essay, “metarrhythmisis, i,” appears in the fall issue of the St. Sebastian Review, a literary journal for LGBTQ Christians. It can be read here: http://stsebastianreview.com/current/.

Congratulations, Kyle!
MFA alum Ariana Nadia Nash (’11) has two poems, “In The Garden of the Gods” and “9 to 5,” in the fall 2014 issue of *The Boiler Journal*.

Congratulations, Ariana!

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Readers of *Creative Loafing Atlanta* have voted MFA alum Kate Sweeney’s (’09) nonfiction book, *American Afterlife*, the best book by an Atlanta author in 2014 (alongside writer Bruce Covey, who shares that honor).

Congratulations, Kate!

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MFA alum Tara Thompson (’05) has an essay, “Obits,” published in *Prick of the Spindle*.

Congratulations, Tara!

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MFA alum Jesse Waters’ (’02) manuscript, “So Let Me Get This Straight,” was selected as a finalist for the 2014 Starcherone Books Prize for Innovative Fiction.

Congratulations, Jesse!
The September issue of the Brooklyn Arts Center newsletter includes work from BFA interns Kelsey Berish and Naomi Spicer (pictured).

Congratulations, Kelsey and Naomi!

Allison Huggins, a BFA intern with UNCW’s Office of University Relations, has published an article on the UNCW website about theatre professor Christopher Marino.

Congratulations, Allison!

The October issue of Wilmington’s Salt magazine features a wealth of Creative Writing folks. Regular columnists include: faculty members Lavonne Adams, Clyde Edgerton and Virginia Holman, and MFA alums Anne Barnhill ('01), Jason Frye ('05), who wrote the cover story (!), Dana Sachs ('00), and Barbara Sullivan ('11).

A link to the digital magazine is here: 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.

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. Listen to an interview about the series here.

“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.”