

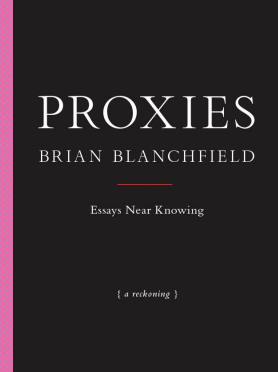
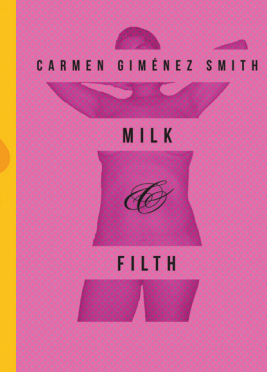
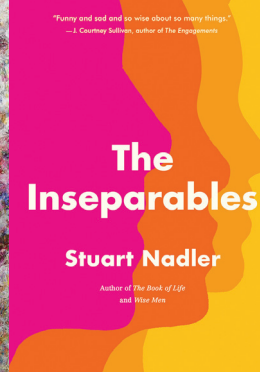
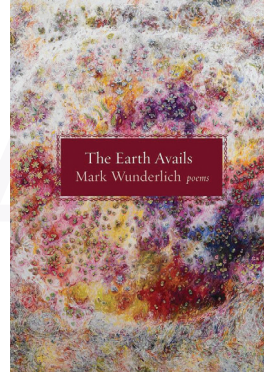
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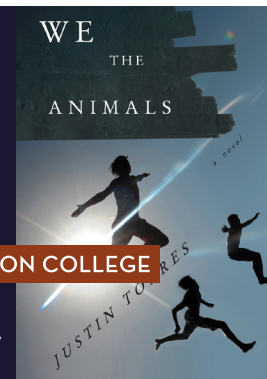
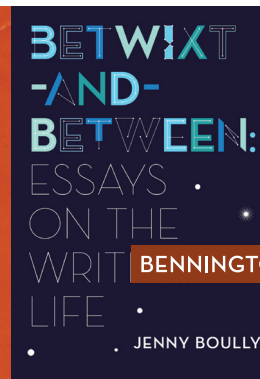
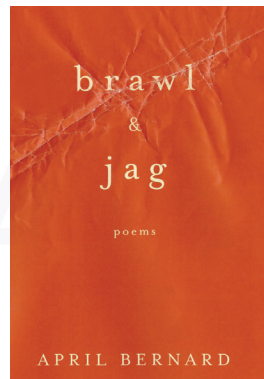
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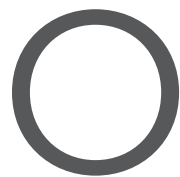


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ur faculty comprises writers who have distinguished themselves in their teaching as well as on the page. Their collective achievement is evident in their many published works. It is also reflected in their diverse literary honors, which include—to name a few—the National Book Critics Circle Award, the National Medal of Arts, the Rea Award for the Short Story, the PEN/Malamud Award, the Walt Whitman Award, the O. Henry Prize, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Whiting Award, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Our faculty members have appeared on innumerable best-seller lists; they publish regularly in the most prestigious magazines; they have received grants and fellowships from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, the NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Library of Congress, among others. At the same time, every faculty writer has a demonstrated passion for teaching, and for the one-on-one engagement that is at the heart of our MFA program.

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY FOR 2018:

Brian Blanchfield (Nonfiction)



Blanchfield is the author of three books of poetry and prose, most recently *Proxies*. A collection of essays—part cultural close reading, part dicey autobiography—*Proxies* was awarded a 2016 Whiting Award in Nonfiction, and was named a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Memoir and the PEN USA Literary Award in Nonfiction. His first two books are collections of poetry: *Not Even Then*, and *A Several World*, which received the 2014 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets and was longlisted for the 2014 National Book Award for Poetry. He is the recipient of a 2015-16 Howard Foundation Fellowship.

Jenny Bouilly (Nonfiction)



Bouilly's new book, *Betwixt-and-Between: Essays on the Writing Life*, is forthcoming from Coffee House Press in Spring 2018. She is the author of five previous books, *not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them*, *The Books of Beginnings and Endings: Essays [one love affair]**, *of the mismatched teacups*, *of the single-serving spoon: a book of failures*, and *The Body: An Essay*. Her chapbook of prose is *Moveable Types*. Her work has been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry*, *The Next American Essay*, *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, and other places. Born in Thailand, she was reared in Texas.

Melissa Febos (Nonfiction)



Febos is the author of *Whip Smart* and the essay collection, *Abandon Me*, which *The New Yorker* called “mesmerizing,” and was an Indie Next Pick and named a Best Book of 2017 by *Esquire*, *Book Riot*, *The Cut*, *Electric Literature*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Bustle*, *Refinery29*, *Salon*, and *The Rumpus*. Her second essay collection is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2019. She has been featured on NPR's Fresh Air, CNN, Anderson Cooper Live, and elsewhere. Her essays have twice received special mention from the Best American Essays anthology and have won prizes from *Prairie Schooner*, *Story Quarterly*, and *The Center for Women Writers*. She is a fellow of the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Vermont Studio Center, The Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Ragdale, and The MacDowell Colony.

Manuel Gonzales (Fiction)



Gonzales is the author of the novel *The Regional Office is Under Attack!* and the acclaimed story collection *The Miniature Wife*, winner of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and the John Gardner Fiction Book Award. A graduate of the Columbia University Creative Writing Program, he teaches writing at the University of Kentucky and the Institute of American Indian Arts. He has published fiction and nonfiction in *Open City*, *Fence*, *One Story*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, and *The Believer*. Gonzales lives in Kentucky with his wife and two children.

Justin Torres (Fiction)



Torres' first novel *We the Animals*, a national best seller, has been translated into fifteen languages and is currently being adapted into a feature film. He has published short fiction in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Washington Post*, *Glimmer Train*, *Flaunt*, and other publications, as well as nonfiction pieces in publications like *The Guardian* and *The Advocate*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he was a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and a Cullman Center Fellow at The New York Public Library. The National Book Foundation named him one of 2012's 5 Under 35. He has been the recipient of a grant from the NEA, a Rolón Fellowship in Literature from United States Artists, and the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award.

Carmen Giménez Smith (Poetry)



Giménez Smith writes lyric essays and poetry, and is the author of the poetry chapbook *Casanova Variations*, the full-length collection *Odalisque in Pieces*, and the memoir *Bring Down the Little Birds: On Mothering, Art, Work, and Everything Else*. Her most recent book, *Milk and Filth*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Giménez Smith was featured as a New American Poet on the Poetry Society of America's website. Her poems have been included in the anthologies *Floriscanto Si! U.S. Latina Poets* and *Contextos: Poemas*. Giménez Smith is the editor-in-chief of *Puerto del Sol* and publisher of Noemi Press.

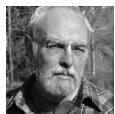
Claire Vaye Watkins (Fiction)



Watkins was born and raised in the Mojave Desert. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*, *One Story*, *Glimmer Train*, *Best of the West*, *Best of the Southwest*, and *The New York Times*. A recipient of fellowships from the Sewanee and Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences, Watkins was one of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" and one of *Granta*'s "Best Young American Novelists." She is the author of *Gold Fame Citrus* and *Battleborn*, which won the Story Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. A Guggenheim Fellow, Claire is also the co-director of the Mojave School, a free creative writing workshop for teenagers in rural Nevada.

FICTION

David Gates



Gates is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and two collections of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World*, and *A Hand Reached Down to Guide Me*. Gates's fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Granta*, *The Oxford American*, *The Journal of Country Music*, and frequently in *Newsweek*, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He's received a Guggenheim fellowship, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award.

Amy Hempel



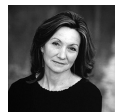
Hempel is a recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the United States Artists Foundation, and the Academy of Arts and Letters. She is the author of *Reasons to Live*, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*, *Tumble Home*, and *The Dog of the Marriage*, and is co-editor of *Unleashed*. Her stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, and others, and have been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Her *Collected Stories* was named by *The New York Times* as one of the ten best books of 2007, and won the Ambassador Book Award for best fiction of the year. In 2008 she received the REA Award for the Short Story, and in 2009 she received the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

Alice Mattison



Mattison's most recent book, *The Kite and the String: How to Write with Spontaneity and Control—and Live to Tell the Tale*, is now available in paperback. Her new novel, *Conscience*, will be published by Pegasus Books in August. Several of her previous novels and story collections have been *The New York Times* Notable Books or Editors' Choices, including the novels *When We Argued All Night* and *The Book Borrower*, and the story collection *In Case We're Separated*, which won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Her book of poems is *Animals*. Mattison's stories, poems, and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Ecotone*, and elsewhere, and have been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

Jill McCorkle



McCorkle is the author of ten books—four story collections and six novels—five of which have been selected as *The New York Times* Notable Books. Her latest novel is *Life After Life*. Two of the stories in *Going Away Shoes*, were included in the *Best American Short Stories* Series. She is the winner of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North Carolina Award for Literature. She was a Briggs Copeland Writer in Residence at Harvard, and was one of the original five faculty members of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

Deirdre McNamer



McNamer is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, *My Russian*, and *Red Rover*, which was named to the Best Books of 2007 lists of *Artforum*, the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*. It also won that year's Montana Book Award. Her essays, short fiction and reviews have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Outside*, among other venues. She is a recipient of a 2015 Artist's Innovation Award from the Montana Arts Council, chaired the fiction panel of the National Book Awards in 2011, and was a judge for the 2015 PEN/Faulkner award.

Stuart Nadler



Nadler is the author of two novels and a short story collection. His first novel, *Wise Men*, was named a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, a Best Book of the Year by Amazon, and has been translated into five languages. His story collection, *The Book of Life*, was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, and long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Story Prize. His recent novel, *The Inseparables*, was named a Best Book of the Year by Kirkus. He was a Truman Capote Fellow and a Teaching-Writing Fellow at Iowa Writers Workshop and was also the Carol Houck Smith Fiction Fellow at the University of Wisconsin. He was a recipient of the 5 Under 35 Award from the National Book Foundation.

Lynne Sharon Schwartz



Schwartz is the author of 25 books, including novels, short-story collections, nonfiction, poetry, and translations. Her most recent work is *Crossing Borders*, an anthology she edited of stories and essays about translation. She has been nominated for a National Book Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, and the PEN/Hemingway First Novel Award. Schwartz has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, and the New York State Foundation for the Arts. Her stories and essays have been reprinted in anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and *The Best American Essays*.

NONFICTION

Benjamin Anastas



Anastas is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary* and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*. His memoir *Too Good to Be True* was a national bestseller. His essays, reviews, and other work have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *Bookforum*, and *The Best American Essays* anthology. He also serves as fiction editor for the *Bennington Review*.

Douglas Bauer



Bauer's novels include *The Book of Famous Iowans*; *The Very Air*; and *Dexterity*. He has also published three works of nonfiction: *Prairie City, Iowa*; *The Stuff of Fiction*; and *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death*, which won the 2014 PEN/New England Book Award in Nonfiction. He's edited the anthologies *Prime Times: Writers on Television* and *Death by Pad Thai and Other Unforgettable Meals*. He has received fellowships in both fiction and creative nonfiction from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Susan Cheever



Cheever's most recent book *Drinking in America*, was long-listed for a PEN nonfiction award. Her books include *E.E. Cummings: A Poet's Life*, *Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography*, and *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work*. She has published seven other books of nonfiction and five novels. Her short work has appeared in dozens of publications and anthologies including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, and as a weekly column in *Newsday*. She has been nominated for a National Book Circle Award and won the *Boston Globe* Winship medal and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is a member of the Authors Guild Council and the board of the Yaddo Corporation.

Dinah Lenney



Lenney is the author of a memoir-in-essays, *The Object Parade*, and of *Bigger than Life: A Murder, a Memoir*, selected for the American Lives series by the University of Nebraska Press. She co-edited *Brief Encounters: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction* with the late Judith Kitchen, and co-authored *Acting for Young Actors* with Mary Lou Belli. Other work has appeared in a variety of publications and anthologies including *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *AGNI*, *Creative Nonfiction*, the *Harvard Review*, the *Paris Review Daily*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, where she is an editor.

Clifford Thompson



Thompson received a Whiting Award for nonfiction in 2013 for *Love for Sale and Other Essays*. His memoir is *Twin of Blackness*. His essays on books, film, jazz, and American identity have appeared *The Village Voice*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Commonweal*, *Film Quarterly*, *Cineaste*, *Oxford American*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Black Issues Book Review*. He is the author of a novel, *Signifying Nothing*. For more than a dozen years he served as the editor of *Current Biography*. In 2018 *Other Press* will publish his book *J.D. & Me*, part memoir and part reflection on the work of Joan Didion.

POETRY

April Bernard



Bernard is a poet, novelist, and essayist. *Brawl & Jag*, her fifth collection of poems, was recently published; previous books of poems are *Romanticism*, *Swan Electric*, *Psalms*, and *Blackbird Bye Bye*, which won the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. Her most recent novel is *Miss Fuller*, which was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Prize. Bernard is a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and other journals. She has received a Guggenheim and a Whitney Humanities Center fellowship. Educated at Harvard University, she worked in book and magazine publishing in New York City, and has taught widely.

Major Jackson



Jackson is the author of four collections of poetry: *Roll Deep*; *Holding Company*; *Hoops*; and *Leaving Saturn*. He is the editor of *Countee Cullen: Collected Poems*. He has published poems and essays in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, among other literary journals. Jackson is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. He served as a creative arts fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. He is the Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor at University of Vermont and serves as Poetry Editor of the *Harvard Review*.

Mark Wunderlich



Wunderlich is Director of the Bennington Writing Seminars. He is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails* which was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award, and received the 2015 Rilke Prize. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Amy Lowell Trust and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. His poems, interviews, reviews and translations have appeared in journals such as *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence* and *Tin House*, and his poems are widely anthologized.