

Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing

Volume 14
Issue 1 4/01/2016

Article 42

2016

Contributors' Notes

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Recommended Citation

(2016) "Contributors' Notes," *Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 42.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol14/iss1/42>

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Contributors' Notes

NATHAN BARTOS is a senior English major and Writing minor. He plans to move to Chicago after graduation to pursue a career in publishing while continuing his education in American Sign Language. He hated writing poetry until he took Intermediate Poetry with Professor Huey at Grand Valley, and now he's published poetry in both *Running Out of Ink* and *Fishladder*. "Role Playing" came from a poetry assignment impersonating Kwame Dawes but turned into an exploration of roles in his previous relationship.

RACHEL BRITTON focuses on projecting the intangible, primarily using multiplicity and long exposures as her tools. Britton loves to photograph drag shows, concerts, flow art, and anything unorthodox. Saturated colors, personal style, reading, and digital manipulation influence her craft. Britton's work has been exhibited at the UICA in Grand Rapids and she is also a finalist in Photographer's Forum Best of College and High School Photography 2016. She is the photographer for the GVSU Laker Store, with one of her images published on the cover of *The College Store Magazine's* 10th Annual Store Design Showcase featuring GVSU Laker Store's interior. Britton plans to photograph for a large clothing company when she graduates, in addition to establishing her own photography business.

JACQUELINE BULL is a senior at GVSU. She works at the writing center and has written for *Revue* magazine and the *Rapidian*. Her first love was fiction, but nonfiction is her main squeeze. She has been told that her voice is distinctive with her humor and clear prose. She has been also told that she has a lot of rules for her writing and sometimes should really just loosen up. Jacqueline is intrigued by place, the natural world, and metaphor.

DANIELLE MARIE CLARK is a Hispanic student and poet at Grand Valley State University. Danielle was awarded the Grand Valley Poetry Prize in 2015, and her work can be found in old copies of *Running Out of Ink*. Born and raised in Battle Creek, she now lives and works in Grand Rapids.

AMBER DOWNS is in her fifth and final year in the writing program at GVSU. For many years, she's used writing as a means to understand herself and the world around her. She began writing short stories at the age of nine inspired by the characters from the *Michigan Chillers* series. As an avid reader and writer, Amber hopes to one day break into the publishing world where she can achieve her dream of reading for a living. Besides reading, Amber loves chocolate milk, hikes, her sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha, and dogs.

COLE EICHELBERGER "Every time I read Cole's work I get this image of a guy in a plaid shirt smoking a cigar outside a motel on a foggy night." - Michael Moore.

KRISTEN GUILBERT is a senior Writing major and Studio Art minor, and is graduating in the spring. She is currently a student writer for University Communications, and has previously contributed to *Revue Magazine*. Following graduation, along with finding a job that will pay off her student loans, she plans to pursue writing and illustrating children's books. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga, cooking, baking, and dipping her toes into just about every artistic medium there is.

NATE KNOTH is a junior studying Advertising and Public relations with a minor in Studio Art. This is the first time Nate's artwork has been published, though he has done various logo design, illustration, and video work for various clients. This specific piece was inspired by lectures and readings from Peter Zhang's Communication Theory course (Alan Watts (1962): "The landscape I am watching is also a state of myself, of the neurons in my head" (p. 42). Nate spent last summer on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and is returning to Hatteras Island this summer for a marketing internship. While there, he will spend his time designing advertising and artwork for Koru Village & Spa, and surfing some of the best breaks the east coast has to offer.

MICHELLE KUZNICKI is a senior at Grand Valley State University. Her poems often explore ideas of sex, religion, and the human body. She believes that emotions are the main thing that connect us together and tries to explore those themes in her work most. In her poems, she draws upon Tarfia Faizullah and Karyna McGlynn for form as well as their bravery in exploring difficult topics. Michelle has worked at the Writing Center for three years, and would like to give a shout out to all of those who have listened to her during her revision process. She also would like to thank her parents who, while they don't always understand what she's writing or why she's writing it, give her their support 100 percent of the time.

JESSICA MAGNAN has a non-fiction piece titled *The Bi-Meaning of Lycanthropy* in this year's edition of *fishladder*.

SYDNEY MCCANN is a Writing major with a minor in Biology, which satisfies her love of both words and nature. She spent most of her undergraduate career in Grand Valley's Writing Center, first as a terrified freshman needing help, then as a writing consultant, and then as a lead writing consultant. She loves helping other writers to grow and unlock their full potential, and hopes to continue this kind of work after leaving Grand Valley. She is an avid yogi, loves the color purple, and loves to be outside, preferably in the water. She has a wandering soul and plans to live in many places, but plans to head to Austin, Texas first after graduation this spring.

CONNOR McDONALD is an English and writing major at Grand Valley State University. He works at the Writing Center as a consultant and is also the recruitment chair for his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega. He hates writing bio's. He's totally ripped. Just like, completely svelte. And suave. Oh my god, is he suave. Suave and svelte, yep, that's him alright. Connor also says things that aren't true, like the statement "I actually invented the window." Which is asinine because we all know that the window was invented in 1845 by Sir Walter John Windowton III. Keep doing your thing, Connor, keep doing your thing. Also, not a lot of these things are true, just a disclaimer.

ANNABELLE MILLER is graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in both English Literature and Writing. She mostly writes poetry, for which she is the poetry genre editor for *fishladder*. She is also a co-director of Grand Valley's Student Reading Series, the President of the Organization for Professional Writers, and a Writing Consultant at the Fred Meijer Center for Writing. Her work has been recognized in the AWP Intro Awards and other GVSU publications. Annabelle's writing mostly revolves around ideas of family, sexuality, and motherhood. Her greatest influences are Karyna McGlynn, Mary Ruefle, and Patricia Highsmith.

EMILY NEIER is a senior at Grand Valley, and she's a writing major with a geology minor. She is the president of the GVSU Writers' Club and a member of the Grand Valley Dance Troupe. She's been dancing since she was three and writing since she was six. Her work has also been featured in the Fall 2012, Winter 2014, Winter 2015, and Fall 2015 issues of *Running Out of*

Ink. Her piece was inspired by continental rifting, her favorite geologic feature.

SETH NELSON is now an alumnus! He graduated in December 2015. Which is why he could still submit to fishladder. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Illustration. So far, life after graduation is more daunting than he had expected, and the job search is a pain. He plans on finishing a graphic novel he wrote and illustrated, along with various other projects. He has been in gallery showings at GV and also has a website, nelsoart.com, which you should all visit and be amazed! Or act like you are. Seth is also an illustrator for hire who would love to work with you!

OLIVIA OLDS has always been a storyteller, but it took a while for her to find the medium through which she can truly feel comfortable expressing herself. She began experimenting with self-portraiture in 2012, when her only equipment was a compact point-and-shoot Nikon and a shoebox for a tripod. Since then she has improved her equipment and skills, but the integrity of her creations has remained. The goal has always been to produce photographs that make the viewer wonder at the story beyond the frame. She finds inspiration everywhere, but nowhere more than in music. As long as there are other artists writing, playing and creating, Olivia will continue to be among them.

MATTHEW OUDBIER grew up predominantly in Grand Rapids Michigan and graduated from high school in 2004. Immediately after graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. After eight years of service, Mathew moved back to the Grand Rapids area with his wife and two children to attend Grand Valley State University where he currently studies philosophy. Military service has had a lasting impact on Matthew and the experience is reflected not only in his philosophy, but also in his poetry. Pluralism and juxtaposition are common elements that Matthew uses to elicit feelings of uncertainty in his audience. Contrasting images in his poetry and contrasting ideas in his philosophy attempt to dissolve the demarcation between existences. For Matthew conflict can be resolved with coexistence.

MICHAEL RENSI is a Writing major at who has recently come to love poetry as a way to explore the deeper niches his mind frequents. He loves old conversion vans, gnocchi, and yoga. He writes about family, love, religion, death. He is afraid of the universe. He would like to learn to play the piano. He was born in Farmington, Michigan, raised on the road, and has yet to find home.

ASHLYN ROWELL is your average sophomore queer Marxist feminist pursuing a degree in English and Secondary Education as well as a minor in both biology and writing. She co-facilitates the poetry club for people with marginalized identities, *In The Margins*, and enjoys making puns in every aspect of her life. You can find Ashlyn climbing trees in the ravines, and can view her other creative writing carved into said trees, or in the *Live Poets Society of NJ National Poetry Quarterly*.

ERICA RUFFNER is a sunflower of a person, majoring in Secondary Education and English. She spends her time indoors writing poetry and fiction and outdoors running through the ravines like a hobbit. Her favorite author is Nancy Farmer and her favorite poet is her girlfriend, Ashlyn Rowell, followed by a close second, Jamaal May.

DAULTON SELKE is a Writing major in his senior year at Grand Valley. He is from a small town called Walled Lake, MI, whose casino hosted many great jazz concerts and successfully fought to legalize dancing on Sundays in Oakland County. That casino has long since burnt down, but in that spot today there is a lakeside park where people still dance now and then.

ZACH SHENEMAN is a non-traditional Writing major and Philosophy minor at GVSU and will likely complete his degree sometime between the events of *Alien* and *The Matrix*. When performing as a vocalist, guitarist, and songwriter in the alternative duo *Chuck*, his music is widely tolerated and occasionally even acknowledged by inebriated patrons. Heavily influenced by cinema, philosophy, music, and especially science fiction stories, his favorite novel is *Catch-22*, which is the book that inspired him to pursue a Writing degree. He'd love to pursue his MFA and continue work on his first novel post-graduation, so long as his liver holds up. He manages and operates the Anytime Fitness on Northland Drive and currently resides in Easttown with his fiancée, Chelsea, and their diabolical spawn, Conlon.

BEN SPENCER is a GVSU senior studying Communications and Writing. He wrote the piece *Before the Sun Wakes Up* in this year's edition of *fishbladder*.

SAMANTHA STEBBINS is a junior studying writing and anthropology. After discovering her love for poetry very recently, Sam's work has also been featured in the Fall 2015 edition of *Running Out of Ink*. In addition to poetry, Sam writes creative non-fiction. Outside of writing, Sam loves dogs, punk music, and Neanderthals.

TAWNY WAGNER is a super senior Writing major at GVSU. She writes short forms of fiction and non-fiction and has previously published work for the *Rapidian*. Although she likes most genres and many writers, she is most fond of critical satire with a cruel sense of humor. Lately she finds herself reading work by Chuck Palahniuk and Mark Haddon. When she's not studying and working, Tawny hangs out at her apartment in Grand Rapids, where she spends much of her time playing hide and seek with her cat and taking pictures of her dog in themed outfits.

ERIN WILLIAMS is a senior at Grand Valley State University, earning her B.A. in Photography April 2016. She is a fine art photographer who is interested in creating content towards the focus of personal identity and stories. These images are a part of a greater series, entitled *And This: Is the Journey to the Center of Freedom*, which were a part of the "Tumultuous" exhibition that was displayed at the GVSU art gallery in December, 2015. Outside of photography, Erin is interested in social justice and activism, fashion, and travel.

CHRISTI WILTENBURG is very interested in photographic alternative printing processes which encompasses many different ways of printing a photograph by way of painting different kinds of light sensitive chemicals onto paper and contact printing with a negative. Gum bichromate printing is one example of alt process that uses the CYMK color process to create a full color image by layering and exposing colors on top of one another. Christi is graduating this coming spring and has plans to travel outside of Michigan and explore more areas of alternative styles of printing.