

# Luther College Writers Festival

## Past Presenters



### Ron A. Austin

#### Author

Ron A. Austin holds an MFA from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and is a 2016 Regional Arts Commission Fellow. *Avery Colt Is a Snake, a Thief, a Liar*, his first collection of linked stories, won the 2017 Nilsen Prize. The book will be released in fall of 2019. Austin's short stories have been placed or are forthcoming in *Pleiades*, *Story Quarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Juked* and other journals. He, his partner Jennie, and son Elijah live in St. Louis with a whippet named Carmen.



### Jennifer Acker

#### Author

Jennifer Acker is founder and editor in chief of *The Common*, and author of the debut novel *The Limits of the World*, a fiction honoree for the Massachusetts Book Award. Her memoir "Fatigue" is a #1 Amazon bestseller, and her short stories, essays, translations, and reviews have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Literary Hub*, *n+1*, *Guernica*, *The Yale Review*, *Off Assignment*, and *Ploughshares*, among other places. Acker has an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars and teaches writing and editing at Amherst College, where she directs the Literary Publishing Internship and LitFest. She lives in western Massachusetts.



## Bret Anthony Johnston

### Author

Bret Anthony Johnston is the author of the internationally bestselling novel *Remember Me Like This* (Random House, 2014), which was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. He is also the author of the short-story collection *Corpus Christi* (Random House, 2004) and the editor of *Naming the World* and *Other Exercises for the Creative Writer*. He is the director of creative writing at Harvard University.



## Kerri Arsenault

### Author

Kerri Arsenault is a book critic, teacher, book editor at Orion magazine, contributing editor at *The Literary Hub*, and author of *Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Leonard Prize, an “Indie Next Pick”, and won the Maine Literary Award for nonfiction. Kerri’s work has appeared in Freeman’s, the Boston Globe, Down East, the Paris Review Daily, the New York Review of Books, Air Mail, and the Washington Post. Kerri received an MFA in creative writing from the New School, studied in the Master Programme in communication for development at Malmö University, Sweden, and received a BA in creative writing from Beloit College. She’s served as a mentor for PEN America’s Prison and Justice Writing Program, on the National Book Critics Circle board, and she’s had 86 jobs.



## Tim Bascom

### Author

Tim Bascom is author of the recent memoir *Running to the Fire* (University of Iowa Press, 2015), about coming of age as the son of missionaries in Ethiopia during a Marxist Revolution. His earlier memoir *Chameleon Days* (Houghton Mifflin) won the Bakeless Literary Prize. He is also the author of a collection of essays and a novel, and his writing has won editor's prizes at The Missouri Review and Florida Review, being selected for Best Creative Nonfiction and Best American Travel Writing. Bascom, who received his MFA from the University of Iowa, is Director of Creative Writing at Waldorf University.



## Charles Baxter

### Author

Charles Baxter is the author of the novels *The Feast of Love* (nominated for the National Book Award), *The Soul Thief*, *Saul and Patsy*, *Shadow Play*, and *First Light*, and the story collections *Gryphon*, *Believers*, *A Relative Stranger*, *Through the Safety Net*, and *Harmony of the World*. The stories "Bravery" and "Charity," which appear in *There's Something I Want You to Do*, were included in Best American Short Stories. Baxter lives in Minneapolis and teaches at the University of Minnesota and in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.



## Geraldine Brooks

### Author

Australian-born Geraldine Brooks is an acclaimed author and journalist known for her immersive, character-driven historical novels. Her fiction debut, *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, was published in ten countries and was a 2001 Notable Book of the Year for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and the Chicago Tribune. For her second novel, *March*, Geraldine was awarded the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and her third book, *People of the Book*, became an instant New York Times bestseller. Her fourth book, *Caleb's Crossing*, was the winner of the New England Book Award for Fiction and the Christianity Today Book Award, and was a finalist for the Langum Prize in American Historical Fiction. *The Secret Chord*, Geraldine's newest novel about the fascinating life of King David, was released in 2015 to critical acclaim.



## Elijah Burrell

### Author

Elijah Burrell is the author of the poetry collection *The Skin of the River* (Aldrich Press, 2014). His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in publications such as Agni, Sugar House Review, Measure, Cider Press Review, Birmingham Poetry Review, Iron Horse Literary Review, Structo, and many others. He received the 2009 Cecil A. Blue Award in Poetry and the 2010 Jane Kenyon Scholarship at Bennington College. Audio versions of his poetry have recently been featured on both The Missouri Review's and Sugar House Review's podcasts. In 2012 Burrell joined the faculty of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. An assistant professor in Lincoln's English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism Department, Burrell teaches creative writing, literature, and advanced composition. Burrell holds an MFA in Writing and

Literature (emphasis: poetry) from Bennington College. He resides in Jefferson City, Missouri, with his wife and two little girls.



## Nickolas Butler

### Author

Nickolas Butler is the author of four best-selling and prize-winning novels and a collection of short stories. His first book, *SHOTGUN LOVESONGS*, was translated in a dozen languages and twice optioned for the screen. His second novel, *THE HEARTS OF MEN* was shortlisted for some of France's most prestigious literary prizes and was optioned by David E. Kelley. His newest novel, *GODSPEED*, was published by Putnam in July. Butler lives on sixteen acres of land in rural Wisconsin adjacent to a buffalo farm with his wife, their two children, about twenty chickens, and a dog.



## Maisy Card

### Author

Maisy Card is the author of the novel, *These Ghosts are Family*, which was the fiction category winner for 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and was a finalist for several awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel and the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction. Her writing has appeared in *The Paris Review Daily*, *Lit Hub*, *The New York Times*, *Guernica*, and other publications. Maisy was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica and was raised in Queens, New York. She is currently an instructor for the Sackett Street Writers' Workshop and a fiction editor for *The Brooklyn Rail*.



## Ryan Collins

### Author

Ryan Collins is the author of *A New American Field Guide & Song Book* (*H\_NGM\_N Books*) and several poetry chapbooks. He is an English Instructor at St. Ambrose University, and the Executive Director of the Midwest Writing Center. He runs the SPECTRA Reading Series in Rock Island, IL where he lives.



## Jennifer Colville

### Author

Jennifer Colville is the founding editor of *Prompt Press*, a project connecting visual artists, book artists and writers. She holds an MFA from Syracuse University and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah. *Elegies for Uncanny Girls*, a collection of short stories, was published in 2017 by Indiana University Press. Jennifer leads creative writing workshops on “The Inventive Female Voice,” and the intersection of writing and visual art with the Iowa City Summer Writing Festival. Year round, Jennifer works to make Iowa City's writing culture more inclusive by co-directing the Free Generative Writing Workshops, an alternative style workshop for writers of all backgrounds and life stages.





## Cass Dalglish

### Author

Fiction writer and prose poet Cass Dalglish is a professor of English and a mentor in the Augsburg College Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing Program. Her published books include the novels *Nin (Spinsters Ink)* and *Sweetgrass (finalist for a Minnesota Book Award)*. A former television crime reporter, she is currently working on a third novel, a mystery set in Granada, Spain. Her book-length prose poem *Humming the Blues (Calyx Books)* is a jazz interpretation of the Sumerian cuneiform signs in Enheduanna's Song to Inanna (Ancient Iraq, 2350 BCE). See her animation of the Song to Inanna on YouTube.



## Kelly Daniels

### Author

Kelly Daniels is the author of the novel, *A Candle for San Simón*, and the memoir, *Cloudbreak*, California. His essays and stories appear regularly in The Sun Magazine. He's a professor of creative writing at Augustana College, in Rock Island, Illinois. [www.authorkellydaniels.com](http://www.authorkellydaniels.com)



## Jasmin Darznik

### Author

Jasmin Darznik's novel *Song of a Captive Bird* was selected as a New York Times Book Review "Editors' Choice" as well as one of 2018's "Best Books" by Vogue, Ms. and Newsweek. Jasmin is also the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Good Daughter: A Memoir of My Mother's Hidden Life*. Her books have been published and are forthcoming in seventeen countries and her essays have appeared in numerous periodicals, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times. Jasmin was born in Tehran, Iran and came to America when she was five years old. She holds an MFA in fiction from Bennington College and a Ph.D. in English from Princeton University. Now a professor of English and creative writing at California College of the Arts, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family.



## Yasmina Din Madden

### Author

Yasmina Din Madden lives in Iowa and her short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in PANK, The Idaho Review, Word Riot, The Masters Review: New Voices, Hobart, Fiction Southeast, Carve, and other journals. Her story "At the Dog Park" was shortlisted for *The Masters Review Anthology: 10 Best Stories by Emerging Authors*, and her flash fiction was shortlisted for the *Wigleaf Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions of 2017* and *Pulp Literature's Hummingbird Prize for Flash Fiction*. She teaches creative writing, literature, and women's and gender studies at Drake University.





## John Domini

### Author

John Domini has won awards in all genres, with fiction in *Paris Review* and non-fiction in The New York Times. He's published three books of stories and three novels, as well as selections of essays and poetry. His 2016 set of stories, *MOVIEOLA! (Dzanc Books)* has been hailed as "the smartest kind of fun," and "a glory." Earlier books were praised in the New York Times and on NPR's "All Things Considered." Domini's grants include an NEA Fellowship and an Iowa Major Artist Award. He has taught at Harvard and Northwestern — as well as at Luther — and makes his home in Des Moines.



## Anaïs Duplan

### Author

Anaïs Duplan is the author of *Take This Stallion (Brooklyn Arts Press)*. His poems and essays have appeared or are forthcoming coming on PBS News Hour, Hyperallergic, Fence, The Journal, Horse Less Review, Birdfeast, and in other publications. He is the director of the Center for Afrofuturist Studies, a new artist residency program in Iowa City, where he is an MFA candidate at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.



## David Faldet

### Author

David Faldet is the sixth generation of his family to live in the Driftless, so his work about the region can be considered "writing what you know" but he also finds his research and preparation to be full of adventure and surprise. He teaches at Luther College. His natural history of the Upper Iowa basin, *Oneota Flow* is available from U of Iowa Press. His novel *King* is available from Wipf and Stock. His poems have been published in a number of journals.



## Adrienne Finlay

### Author

Adrienne Finlay received her PhD in literature and creative writing from Binghamton University. Originally from Ithaca, New York, she now lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa with her husband, the poet J. D. Schraffenberger, and their two young daughters. She is an associate professor of English and the Program Director of Creative Writing at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa. Her debut novel, *Your One & Only*, released in 2018 with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and she has a forthcoming novel that will be available in 2020. When she's not writing, reading, or grading, she's making soap to sell locally, raising money for type 1 diabetes research.



Peter Geye  
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Lionstar

## Peter Geye

### Author

Peter Geye is the author of the award-winning novels, *Safe from the Sea*, *The Lighthouse Road*, and *Wintering*, winner of the Minnesota Book Award, as well as *Northernmost*, the third and final installment of his Eide family cycle of books. His fifth novel, *The Ski Jumpers*, will be published in the fall of 2022. He currently teaches the year-long Novel Writing Project at the Loft Literary Center. Born and raised in Minneapolis, he continues to live there with his family



## Carol Gilbertson

### Author

Carol Gilbertson's poems have appeared in various journals including *The MacGuffin*, *Christian Century*, *Magnolia*, *Concho River Review*, *Vineyard*, *Pebble Lake Review*, *The Cresset*, *New Zoo Poetry Review*, and the radio program *Voices from the Prairie*. Her poem "*Hercules*" won the 2006 Flyway Sweet Corn Prize for Poetry; "*On the Train from Krakow*" earned second place in the 2009 MacGuffin Poet Hunt. She has written hymn texts with a range of composers. Her poem "*Night Rising*" inspired composer Philip Wharton's composition "*Nightrising*" for flute, oboe, and strings, and she wrote the libretto for "*Birdsongs*," a song cycle for mezzo-soprano by Wharton. She co-edited the essay collection *Translucence: Religion, the Arts, and Imagination* (Fortress, 2004); her essay in it, on the religious imagination in the literature classroom, earned the NCTE Donald Murray Prize. Now Professor Emerita of English at Luther College, she has been the Dennis M. Jones Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities, has directed the Luther Poetry

Project and a study abroad program in Nottingham, England, and was founding director of the Lutheran Festival of Writing at Luther College. She lives in Decorah, Iowa.



## David Gonzalez

### Author

David Gonzalez is a professional storyteller, poet, playwright, musician and public speaker. He is a cultural ambassador for the U.S. State Department, and is the proud recipient of the International Performing Arts for Youth "Lifetime Achievement Award for Sustained Excellence". Mr. Gonzalez was named a Fellow of the Joseph Campbell Foundation and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for "Unique Theatrical Experience" for *The Frog Bride*. David has created numerous productions, including the critically acclaimed ¡Sofrito! with The Latin Legends Band, and MytholoJazz, both of which enjoyed sold-out runs at New Victory Theater. *Sleeping Beauty* was co-commissioned by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn College, and The McCallum Theater. David was a featured performer at the National Storytelling Festival, and appeared for three seasons at the Royal National Theatre in London. *The Man of the House* was commissioned by, and premiered at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2013.



## Vince Gotera

### Author

Vince Gotera is a professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa, where he served as Editor of the *North American Review* (2000-2016). He is Editor of *Star\*Line*, the print journal of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association. Poetry collections include *Fighting Kite*, *Ghost Wars*, *Dragonfly*, and the upcoming *Pacific Crossing*. Recent poems appeared in *Altered Reality Magazine*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Crooked Teeth Literary Magazine*, *Eye to the Telescope*, *Voices de la Luna*, and other venues. He blogs at *The Man with the Blue Guitar*.



## John Hall

### Author

After graduating with majors in art and English, Hall served as an officer in the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam War Era. He began his career as a journalist. As a reporter and editorial writer he won the National Newspaper Association Freedom of Information Award for investigative journalism. From there, Hall joined the University of Iowa's Office of Public Information and University Relations as communications director for the arts. From Iowa, Hall took a position at Dartmouth College and later Walker Art Center. Throughout his career Hall has maintained his connection with poetry and the visual arts. He has been writing (unpublished) poetry himself the past eight years and in 2013 resumed drawing and painting. His latest intaglio work is a suite of four prints, entitled "*Deep Noticing*," currently on display at Luther College's Preus Library. Each of the prints is a response to four poems by four poets. In 2012 Hall's book, "*The Last Battle*," the story of his father and the noted theologian Roger Lincoln Shinn, was published. Hall is currently



working on a film based on that book. Hall did graduate work at the University of Iowa School of Art & Art History and at Mankato (MN) State University. He received a BFA from the University of South Dakota. He lives with his wife Lou Ann in rural Winneshiek County. They have three grown children.



## Jane Hamilton

### Author

Jane Hamilton is the author most recently of *The Excellent Lombards* and *The Book of Ruth*, winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award for first fiction, as well as *A Map of the World*, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and named one of the top ten books of the year by Entertainment Weekly, Publishers Weekly, the Miami Herald, and People. Both *The Book of Ruth* and *A Map of the World* have been selections of Oprah's Book Club. Her following work, *The Short History of a Prince*, was a Publishers Weekly Best Book of 1998. Her novel *Disobedience* was published in 2000, and her last novel *When Madeline Was Young* was a Washington Post Best Book of 2006. She lives in and writes in an orchard farmhouse in Wisconsin.



## Katherine Hannigan

### Author

Katherine Hannigan is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Ida B...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster and (Possibly) Save the World and True (...Sort Of)*, which was a California Young Reader Award nominee and an Iowa Children's Choice selection. She has also written and illustrated *Emmaline and the Bunny* (a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year), *Gwendolyn Grace* (an Atlanta Parent Best Book of 2015), and *Dirt+Water=Mud*. She received an M.F.A. in studio

art, and has worked as an assistant professor of art and design at Iowa State University, and as the education coordinator for a Head Start program in New York. She grew up in Western New York, and now lives in Iowa.



## Gwen Hart

### Author

Gwen Hart is the author of the poetry collections *The Empress of Kisses* (winner of the X. J. Kennedy Poetry Prize from Texas Review Press), *Lost and Found* (David Robert Books), *Dating the Invisible Man* (The Ledge Press), and *Losing Ohio* (Finishing Line Press). Her poems and stories have appeared in journals and anthologies such as Calliope, Litro, Heater, Measure, Midwestern Gothic, and Main Street Rag. She teaches writing at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and is the faculty advisor for Hot Dish Magazine.



## Lisa Henner

### Author

Lisa Henner co-founded the Driftless Writing Center in 2010 to support writers of all ages and stages of craft. She prepared to write fiction by working as a hotel desk clerk, a hog futures trader, an English teacher, a wealth manager, an organic chicken farmer, and by raising two children. Originally from Chicago, Lisa now lives in Viroqua, Wisconsin, with her husband and two dogs. She recently completed her first novel.



## Geoff Herbach

### Author

Geoff Herbach is the author of several young adult novels, including *Stupid Fast*, *FatBoy vs. The Cheerleaders*, and most recently *Hooper* (Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, 2018). His books have received the Cybils Award for best YA Fiction, The Minnesota Book Award, and Outstanding Book by a Wisconsin author. They've been listed among the year's best by the American Library Association, the American Bookseller's association, and the International Literacy Association. Before writing for young adults, Geoff wrote the literary novel *The Miracle Letters of T. Rimberg*, performed comedy, produced radio, and traveled around the country telling weird stories in rock clubs. He teaches creative writing in the English Department at Minnesota State, Mankato.



## Patrick Hicks

### Author

Patrick Hicks is the author of ten books, including *The Collector of Names*, *Adoptable*, and *This London*—he also wrote the critically and popularly acclaimed novel, *The Commandant of Lubizec*. He has been nominated seven times for the Pushcart Prize, he was recently a finalist for the High Plains Book Award, the Dzanc Short Story Collection Competition, and the Gival Press Novel Award. His poetry has appeared on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*, *The PBS NewsHour*, *American Life in Poetry*, and his first novel not only held company among only 20 books selected for National Reading Group Month, but it was listed as a Top Pick for First Year College Programs. He is the recipient of a number of grants and fellowships, including awards from the Bush Artist Foundation, the Loft Literary Center, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A dual-citizen of Ireland and

America, he is the Writer-in-Residence at Augustana University as well as a faculty member at the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College.



## David Hough

### Author

David Hough has spent nearly forty years working in magazine and book publishing in both editorial and production positions. He started his career as an editor for TV Guide and was made the managing editor of Harcourt's adult trade division in 1999, where he worked with authors such as William F. Buckley Jr., Mario Cuomo, Roger Rosenblatt, Joyce Carol Oates, Anthony Damasio, and Edward Gorey. He currently lives on a farm in southwestern Wisconsin and works as a freelance editor and book packager while also serving on the board of the Driftless Writing Center in Viroqua.



## David Kamm

### Author

David Kamm is an assistant professor of art and art gallery coordinator at Luther College, where he also assists in management of the school's fine arts collection. His studio work focuses on prints, collages and mixed-media pieces, and has been included in over 130 juried, group and solo exhibitions. In addition to his studio work and teaching, he has been a participant in a Fulbright Study Abroad project to Russia, the Institute of Lutheran Scholars at Harvard University, and two National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminars. In 2007 he was an artist-in-residence at the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He has presented at several sessions of national art conferences, including the College Art



Association and FATE (Foundations in Art: Theory and Education). Kamm earned his BA in art education from Wartburg College, and his MA and MFA degrees in printmaking from the University of Iowa.



## Athena Kildegaard

### Author

Athena Kildegaard is the author of four books of poetry, *Rare Momentum*, *Bodies of Light*, *Cloves & Honey*, and *Ventriloquy*, just published by the new independent woman-run press Tinderbox Editions. Her second book was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award and her third was a finalist for the Midwest Book Award. Her poems have appeared widely in journals and anthologies and have been read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*. She has received grants from the Lake Region Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board. She is the poetry series editor of the on-line journal *Bloom*, and she teaches at the University of Minnesota, Morris.



## Lise Kildegaard

### Author

Lise Kildegaard is an English professor at Luther College. While she teaches everything from soup to nuts, Renaissance texts to postmodernism, her main literary project for the last several years has been translating the “square stories” of Danish author Louis Jensen. As soon as we finish up with the LC Writers Festival, she’ll be heading to Denmark to celebrate the publication of Jensen’s 1001st story.





## Kevin Koch

### Author

Kevin Koch is author of *Skiing at Midnight: A Nature Journal from Dubuque County, Iowa*; *The Driftless Land: Spirit of Place in the Upper Mississippi Valley*; and *The Thin Places: A Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless*. He is a Professor of English at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. When he is not teaching or writing, he can often be found bicycling, kayaking, or cross-country skiing in the Driftless Area hills and waterways.



## Kristine Kopperud Jepsen

### Author

Kristine Kopperud Jepsen is a writer and editor in rural Northeast Iowa. Her creative nonfiction has won the Diana Woods Memorial Award for Nonfiction at Lunch Ticket and appears at HuffPost, Parents.com, River Teeth, The Girlfriend (AARP), MUTHA Magazine, Literary Mama, and in several anthologies. Her hermit-crab essay "*Jaw Wiring: What You Need to Know*" was a flash nonfiction winner at Sweet: A Literary Confection, appeared in Creative Nonfiction's Sunday Short Reads, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



## Charlie Langton

### Author

Charlie Langton's book of poems, *Keep Silence, But Speak Out*, was chosen as the second selection in the Loess Hills Poetry Series. His work has appeared in the Antioch Review, the Iowa Review, New Letters, Prairie Schooner, and other magazines, and his poems have been included in two anthologies, *Voices on the Landscape* and *River of Earth and Sky*. He earned his MFA degree from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa and lives in Decorah, Iowa.



## Lyz Lenz

### Author

Lyz's writing has appeared in the Huffington Post, the Washington Post, the Columbia Journalism Review, The New York Times, Pacific Standard, and others. Her book *God Land* was published in 2019, through Indiana University Press. Her second book *Belabored*, was published in 2020 by Bold Type Books. And her third, *This American Ex Wife* is forthcoming from Crown. Lyz's essay "All the Angry Women" was also included in the anthology *Not that Bad* edited by Roxane Gay. Lyz received her MFA in creative writing from Lesley University. She lives in Iowa with her two kids.



## Debra Marquart

### Author

Debra Marquart is the author of six books including, *Small Buried Things: Poems* (2015), *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere* (2007), and a co-edited anthology of experimental writing, *Nothing to Declare: A Guide to the Prose Sequence* (2016). She teaches in the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine and is a Professor of English in the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment at Iowa State University. The Senior Editor of *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*, Marquart has delivered over 250 invited readings and keynotes at universities and conferences from New York and Washington to Greece and Ireland.



## Gretchen Marquette

### Author

Gretchen Marquette's work has been featured in *The Paris Review*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, and other places. Her first book, *May Day*, was released by Graywolf Press in 2016. She lives in South Minneapolis.



## James McKean

### Author

James McKean has published three books of poems—*Headlong* (University of Utah Press), *Tree of Heaven* (University of Iowa Press), which won an Iowa Poetry Prize, and *We Are the Bus* (Texas Review Press), which won the 2011 X.J. Kennedy Poetry Prize—and a book of essays, *Home Stand: Growing Up in Sports* (Michigan State University Press). His essays have appeared in journals such as *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Iowa Review*, and *The Southern Review*; and have been reprinted in an edition of *Best American Sports Writing* and the *Pushcart Prize* anthology. He teaches for the Queens University low residency M.F.A. program in Charlotte, NC, the Tinker Mountain Writers Workshop at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA, and on occasion, for the University of Iowa.



## LaTanya McQueen

### Author

LaTanya McQueen is the author of the novel *When the Reckoning Comes*, forthcoming with *HarperPerennial*, and the essay collection *And It Begins Like This*, published with Black Lawrence Press. She has an MFA from Emerson College, a PhD from the University of Missouri, and was the Robert P. Dana Fellow at Cornell College. She teaches creative writing at Coe College where she is an Assistant Professor.



## June Melby

### Author

June Melby is the author of *My Family and Other Hazards* (Henry Holt), a New York Times bestseller and Midwest Connections award winner. As a spoken word artist she has featured in Munich, Hamburg, London, and Amsterdam; at the Knitting Factory and CBGBs in New York, and the LA Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. She has three poetry chapbooks, and three cds of original music with spoken word. Her other work has appeared or is forthcoming in Utne Reader, LAWeekly, McSweeney's Internet Tendency, Forklift Ohio, and Fugue, among others.



## Jennifer Morales

### Author

Jennifer Morales is a poet, fiction writer, and performance artist based in rural Wisconsin. Recent publications include poems in *MAYDAY* and in "*Pulsamos*," a special issue of *Glass Poetry* dedicated to the Pulse nightclub victims, and a novel excerpt in *Our Happy Hours: LGBT Voices from the Gay Bars* (Flashpoint, 2017). Her first book, *Meet Me Halfway* (UW Press, 2015), a short story collection about life in hyper-segregated Milwaukee, was Wisconsin Center for the Book's 2016 "Book of the Year." The book was also a finalist for the Midwest Book Award, won an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Library Association, and was part of the inaugural LGBTQ Writers in the Schools program in the New York City Public Schools, among other honors. Morales is president of the board of the Driftless Writing Center, based in Viroqua, Wis. [www.moraleswrites.com](http://www.moraleswrites.com)

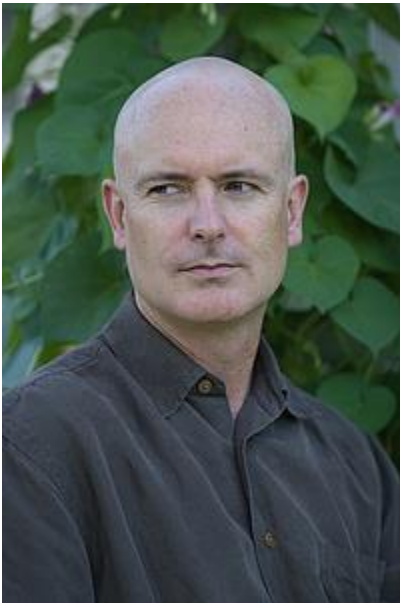




## Sheila O'Connor

### Author

Sheila O'Connor is the author of four novels: *Tokens of Grace*, *Where No Gods Came*, *Sparrow Road*, and *Keeping Safe the Stars*. Awards for her novels include the Michigan Prize for Literary Fiction, Minnesota Book Award, International Reading Award, Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, and Midwest Booksellers Award among others. She teaches in the MFA program at Hamline University where she serves as Fiction Editor for Water~Stone Review.



## Jim O'Loughlin

### Author

Jim O'Loughlin is the author of the flash fiction collection, *Dean Dean Dean Dean* (Twelve Winters Press). He teaches English at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls where he also coordinates the Final Thursday Reading Series, which is beginning its 19th season.



## Jill Osier

### Author

Jill Osier is the author of three chapbooks of poems: *from* (2018), winner of the *Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award*, *Should Our Undoing Come Down Upon Us White* (2013), winner of the *Frost Place Chapbook Competition*, and *Bedful of Nebraskas* (2012). She has served as the Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing and the George Bennett Fellow at Phillips Exeter Academy. Osier is a graduate of Luther College and lives in Fairbanks, Alaska.



## Andre Perry

### Author

Andre Perry is the author of *Some of Us Are Very Hungry Now*. He lives and works in Iowa City.



## Christine Pride

### Author

Christine Pride is a writer, editor and 15-year publishing veteran. She has held posts at various Big Five imprints, including Doubleday, Broadway, Crown, Hyperion, and, most recently, as a Senior Editor at Simon and Schuster. Christine has published a wide range bestselling and critically acclaimed books, with a special emphasis on inspirational stories and memoirs. In the fall of 2018, Christine left her full time in-house editorial post to focus on freelance, writing and editing. Her first novel, *We Are Not Like Them*, written with Jo Piazza, will be published by late 2021.



## Kate Rattenborg

### Author

Kate Rattenborg is the owner and manager of Decorah's independent bookstore, Dragonfly Books. Kate opened her bookstore five years ago after returning to her hometown Decorah after a long and fulfilling career as a librarian with the University of Iowa Libraries and University of Minnesota Libraries. Passionate about all things book-related, Kate is honored to have created a business that promotes literacy and reading; a business that also is community-centered, complementing Decorah's literary and artistic aesthetics.



## Ari Satok

### Author

Ari Satok is an author and educator, who believes in the power of stories to make the world a better place. After graduating from Princeton University in 2014, he embarked on a storytelling journey, through which he traveled to international schools on four different continents, interviewing students from dozens of countries and then writing a book, titled *The Architects of Hope*, that captures 16 of these students' incredible stories. Since publishing *The Architects of Hope*, Ari has given book talks at a wide range of venues both in the US and abroad and has been privileged to lead writing and storytelling workshops with all kinds of communities.



## Kathryn Savage

### Author

Kathryn Savage is a recipient of the 2018 Academy of American Poets James Wright Prize. A hybrid writer, her work appears or is forthcoming in American Short Fiction, poets.org, the Guardian, Poets & Writers, Ploughshares, the Village Voice, Star Tribune, and The Best Small Fictions of 2015. She currently teaches writing at The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), and at the University of Minnesota, and serves as a program manager at The Loft Literary Center. Her work has been supported by the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Napa Valley Writers' Conference, Minnesota State Arts Board, Millay Colony, Ucross Foundation, Coffee House Press: In the Stacks, Weisman Art Museum, and the Gullkistan Center for Creativity in Laugarvatn, Iceland.



## J.D. Schraffenberger

### Author

J. D. Schraffenberger is editor of the North American Review and an associate professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of two books of poetry, *Saint Joe's Passion* (Etruscan Press) and *The Waxen Poor* (Twelve Winters Press), and co-author of *The Necessary Poetic of Atheism* (Twelve Winters Press) with Martín Espada and Lauren Schmidt. His other work has appeared in Best Creative Nonfiction, Brevity, Prairie Schooner, and elsewhere. He lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with his two daughters and his wife, the novelist Adrienne Finlay.



## Julie Schumacher

### Author

Julie Schumacher is the author of nine books, including the national bestseller *Dear Committee Members*, winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Ms. Schumacher is the only woman to have won the Thurber Prize. Schumacher's first novel, *The Body Is Water*, was an ALA Notable Book of the Year and a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Chronicle for Higher Education* and other publications; most recently, she is the author of *Doodling for Academics – a Coloring and Activity Book*, and a novel, *The Shakespeare Requirement*. She is a professor of English and Creative Writing program at the University of Minnesota.



## Kaethe Schwehn

### Author

Kaethe Schwehn is the author of a post-apocalyptic novel, *The Rending and the Nest*, as well as a memoir, *Tailings*, and the poetry collection *Tanka & Me*. She is the co-editor of *Claiming Our Callings: Toward a New Understanding of Vocation in the Liberal Arts*. Her poems and prose can be found in journals such as *Crazyhorse*, *Pleiades*, *jubilat*, *Witness*, *Minnesota Review* and the anthology *Fiction on a Stick*. She has been the recipient of a Minnesota Book Award for Creative Nonfiction, a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant, a Loft Mentor Series Award, the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, and a Best of the Net Anthology award. She lives in Northfield and teaches composition and creative writing at St. Olaf College.





## Steve Semken

### Author

Steve Semken founded the Ice Cube Press in 1993 as a way to use the literary arts to better learn how to best live in the Midwest. Since then he has published the work of hundreds of authors of both regional and national acclaim. He speaks and teaches throughout the Midwest on issues of creativity, entrepreneurship, writing, and publishing. In addition, he is the author of six books, most recently *The Great Blues/Soul External: Rediscovering the Great Blue Heron* which won a Kansas Book Award, and a novella, *Pick Up Stick City: Restoration Fiction* which Publishers' Weekly called "funny, poignant and more than a bit whimsical, this allegorical tale of small town and environmental care is suffused with wonder." He has also been a writer-in-residence at the Island Institute in Sitka, Alaska.



## Sejal Shah

### Author

Sejal Shah is the author of the debut essay collection, *This Is One Way to Dance* (University of Georgia Press, 2020). Her stories and essays have appeared in The Guardian, Brevity, Conjunctions, Guernica, the Kenyon Review Online, Literary Hub, Longreads, and The Rumpus. The recipient of a 2018 NYFA fellowship in fiction, Sejal recently completed a story collection and is at work on a memoir about mental health. She lives in Rochester, New York.



## Grant Tracey

### Author

Grant Tracey has published close to fifty short stories in various literary magazines, four collections, and most recently a crime novel, *Cheap Amusements (Twelve Winters)*. He has been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize and won an Iowa Regents Award for Faculty Excellence in 2013. He has also acted in over thirty community theatre productions most recently playing Peter in *Zoo Story* and Gordon in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. For the past sixteen years, he's served as Fiction Editor for the North American Review.



## Nick Twemlow

### Author

Nick Twemlow is the author of two collections of poetry—*Palm Trees*, which received the Norma Farber First Book Prize from the Poetry Society of America, and *Attributed to the Harrow Painter*, forthcoming in fall 2017—and is a senior editor at The Iowa Review and co-editor at Canarium Books. His short films have played Athens, Slamdance, SXSW, Tribeca, and other film festivals. He is assistant professor in English at Coe College, where he teaches creative writing and filmmaking.



## Kali VanBaale

### Author

Kali VanBaale is the author of the novels *The Good Divide* and *The Space Between*. She is the recipient of an American Book Award, the Independent Publisher's silver medal for fiction, the Fred Bonnie Memorial First Novel Award, and an Iowa Arts Council major artist grant. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Numéro Cinq*, *The Milo Review*, *Northwind Literary*, *Poets&Writers*, *The Writer* and several anthologies. Kali holds an MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and is a faculty member of the Lindenwood University MFA Creative Writing Program. She lives outside Des Moines with her family.



## Cary Waterman

### Author

Cary Waterman is the author of five books of poems, including *The Salamander Migration from the U. of Pittsburgh Press* and *When I Looked Back You Were Gone* from *Holy Cow! Press* that was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award. Her most recent book, *Book of Fire* from *Nodin Press* was a finalist for the Midwest Book Award. Her poems are included in the anthologies *Poets Against The War*, *To Sing Along The Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-Territorial Days to the Present*, and *Where One Song Ends, another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry*. Her poems have been awarded prizes in the Federico Garcia Lorca Poetry Contest, the Rash Awards, the Common Ground Review Poetry Contest and *So to Speak*, the feminist journal from George Mason University.



## Amy Weldon

### Author

Amy is the author of *The Hands-On Life: How to Wake Yourself Up and Save The World* (Cascade Books, 2018), *The Writer's Eye: Observation and Inspiration for Creative Writers* (Bloomsbury, 2018), and *Eldorado, Iowa: A Novel* (Bowen Press Books, 2019). Her novel-in-progress, *Creature*, is based on the life of Mary Shelley. Featuring chapters on Byron, the Shelleys, William Blake, Anna Barbauld, Mary Wollstonecraft, and her beloved John Keats, her nonfiction book in progress, *An Awful Rainbow: Reading the Romantics in a World on Fire*, blends memoir and scholarship on boxing, skylarks, poetry, corsets, and climate change to argue that these writers can teach us how to live richly and responsibly in uncertain times. Featuring craft advice, a wide range of featured authors, and samples of work from her own students (with their thoughts on their process), her textbook *Advanced Fiction Writing: A Writer's Guide and Anthology* is under contract to Bloomsbury Academic for delivery in December 2021.



## Andrea Wilson

### Author

Andrea Wilson is the Founder and Executive Director of the Iowa Writers' House. IWH is headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, provides literary programming throughout Iowa, and is dedicated to extending the Iowa literary legacy to all writers, editors, and literary artists who honor the power of words.



## Erika Wurth

### Author

Erika T. Wurth's publications include a novel, *Crazy Horse's Girlfriend*, two collections of poetry and a collection of short stories, *Buckskin Cocaine*. Her novel *You Who Enter Here* is forthcoming from SUNY. A writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, she teaches creative writing at Western Illinois University and has been a guest writer at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous journals including *Boulevard*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Waxwing* and *The Kenyon Review*. She is represented by Peter Steinberg. She is Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee and was raised outside of Denver.



## Margaret Yapp

### Author

Margaret Yapp is from Iowa City, Iowa. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Post Road Magazine*, *Cutleaf Journal*, *New Delta Review*, *Peach Mag* and elsewhere. Margaret is an MFA candidate at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. You can find her on the internet @bigbabymarg and [margaretyapp.com](http://margaretyapp.com).