

Adelphi University

MFA in Creative Writing

a great start...

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3pm-7pm

Tanya Nakashian

Monday, 10am - 11 am,
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Wednesday 10am-11:am,
Thursday, 9:30am-

We're delighted to introduce here our incoming class of MFA candidates in poetry, fiction, and playwriting—to all of whom we extend our warmest welcome. You will also find, in these pages, news of the recent activities and accomplishments of our faculty. Our MFA program is housed, naturally enough, within the English Department, and there's a lively, continuous traffic between the creative writing teachers and literature faculty here at Adelphi. This flow of ideas and energies will be reflected in the MFA program's newsletter, which we see as an essential conduit. In that spirit, we'll look forward to hearing from you, readers! Feel free to email or call any of us at any time

April 16th Walter Mosley
(*Devil in a Blue Dress*) will be on campus. Evening reading open to the public. Let us know if you'd like to be invited to Mosley's small afternoon workshop on writing fiction.

poet Yusef Komunyakaa
(*Pleasure Dome: New & Collected Poems, 1975-1999*, Wesleyan

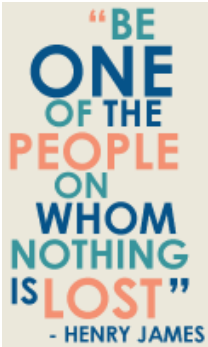
University Press, 2001), whose honors include the William Faulkner Prize from the Université de Rennes, the NEA, and the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam, where he was a correspondent and managing editor of the Southern Cross comes to campus this spring. date/time tba

Reserve seats now for **Anton Dudley's *Honor and The River*** Directed by Nancy Robillard. Feb 1-25 at Luna Stage in Montclair, NJ.
www.lunastage.org

welcome to:

Michelle Augello (poetry)
Lore Hera Barouch (fiction)
William Blick (fiction)
Nicole Catalbiano (fiction)
Edgar Carlson (poetry)
Madeline Craig (fiction)
Holly Eaton (playwriting)
Mary Johansen (poetry)
Kelley Nicholson (poetry)
Lois O'Neill (poetry)
Deborah Picone (fiction)
Kathleen Watchorn (poetry)
Jamie Williams (playwriting)

coming up...



*“Learning without
thought is labor lost;
thought without
learning is
dangerous”—
Confucius*

our philosophy...

playwriting

The playwrights in our program collaborate to strengthen their voices as writers and dramaturgs, storytellers and social visionaries. Recognizing that a playwright may only learn to re-write, our workshops are based on the development process, ultimately focusing on how a writer creates a personal methodology for his or her craft. Emphasizing the structure of plays, we study how the spine of dramatic storytelling has been transformed and built upon, throughout history—noting how theatre has always reacted to the present moment in its continuing effort to both reflect and reinterpret the action of living. Integral to our developmental process is an acknowledgment of theatre as a three-dimensional medium and a dramatic text's existence beyond the page, as we prepare our writers for a life in the theatre and its many satellite professions.

poetry

The poets in our program form a community of writers and readers who challenge themselves and support one another. Our classes and workshops are craft-based and dedicated to the writing and rewriting of poems of all kinds. We use published and unpublished texts to develop reading and editing skills. We consider and develop thoughtful and practical approaches to the life of the artist and the creative process. And we articulate and extend our craft—poetics, voice, prosody—and help one another set artistic and professional goals.

creative nonfiction

Writing creative nonfiction—literary renditions of fact—entails unusual possibilities, difficulties, beauties, and dangers, all of which we explore in our workshops. These are craft-based and use published and unpublished texts to clarify the forms and traditions of the genre as well as current trends in creative nonfiction. As a community of writers and readers, we encourage rigorous and challenging yet supportive engagement with one another's work.

fiction

Our program sees fiction as a realm in which a strong regard for tradition and a ceaseless capacity for experimentation are essential. Our workshops and classes focus on elements of craft, varied narrative strategies, and the reliable resourcefulness of our own imaginations. Well-known and emerging authors alike inform our writing efforts. As a community of writers and readers, we realize that we must always “mine deeper,” as Melville put it—and we trust that rich veins of thought and feeling are tapped when we collaborate and share, write and rewrite, read and re-read.



student and faculty news...

send your news to

baumel@adelphi.edu

This July, the MFA Program launched the first part of a 3-year \$75,000 teaching grant from the [Teagle Foundation](#). “Reading and Writing the City” partners Adelphi’s Department of English with [Groundwork for Success](#),

a nonprofit organization in Brooklyn that provides high-quality educational programming and support to disadvantaged populations. Faculty [Judith Baumel](#), [Martha Cooley](#), [Imraan Coovadia](#), [Kermit Frazier](#) and [Jacqueline Jones LaMon](#) ran workshops. Also teaching were graduate students [Lore Hera Borouch](#), [Madeline Craig](#), [Deborah Picone](#) and [Sharon Ribera](#).

Graduate Students:

[Lois O’Neill](#) was invited to present her paper “Addressing the Difficulty of Poetry Through the Use of Hypertext” in October in Boston at the 4th International Conference on the Book. Look for the printed article soon. [Edgar Carlson](#) in 2006 read at the Spoken Word Cafe in Brooklyn, in the *(continued below, left)*



Groundwork For Success Students on Blake Avenue in East New York, Brooklyn

Bridgehampton Library for The North Sea Poetry Scene. He ran poetry workshops on Rikers Island over the winter and assisted Maxwell C. Wheat and Betsy Gulotta with two prairie poetry workshops on the Hempstead Plains. The first workshop theme was soil. The second workshop’s theme was grass and grassland. He won an award for his poem

8:15 mid-november, and had poems published in *The Islander*, *Long Island Sounds 2006 Anthology*, *PPA Literary Review 2006*. Private (Italy). He also was a founding member of a committee to establish a Nassau County Poet Laureate. The legislation was passed in April, 2006.

In early September [Judith Baumel](#) participated in the Teagle Foundation annual Leadership Summit in North Carolina.

Recent publications: a selection in the anthology *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poets from 1951-1977*. Editor William Walsh selected *(continued on page 4)*

*“The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne,
Th’assay so hard, so sharp
the conquerynge”*
—Chaucer

everything seems an echo...

Our faculty looks forward to introducing you—by way of [readings](#), one-on-one [interviews](#), panel [discussions](#), and other modes of sharing—to the [life of the writer in New York](#) and places beyond.

In addition, this newsletter provides information on specific [literary resources](#) which we think you’ll find interesting and helpful. We’ll be offering such information regularly,

and welcome your input and reactions. Writerly watering-holes and other venues for [engagement and connection](#) never vanish; they merely shift locale from time to time. The Web, however, is a different sort of space: in it, literary [study](#), [practice](#), and [experience](#) have been radically affected and altered, as we needn’t tell you. The repercussions of this transformation are something we look forward to exploring

both within the program as a whole and with [this newsletter](#).

All of which is, perhaps, a way of saying this: we see this newsletter as a means of initiating and sustaining a [conversation](#)—ongoing, open-ended, and enlivening. “[Everything seems an echo](#) of something else,” says Robert Penn Warren: our own literary-creative efforts resound endlessly with those of other writers and readers. We offer our newsletter in that spirit, and look forward to your input!





Anton Dudley

more faculty news...

"the best poets influenced by ...the powerful [rock 'n' roll] era in music to allow us to examine the music of each poet's own verse."

"Electronic Allegory" and "Monumental Grief" were selected by guest editor Jordan Smith for volume three of *Inertia*, a new online journal available at www.intertiamagazine.com

Imraan Coovadia just published his second novel, *Green-eyed Thieves*, in South Africa over the summer. He is working on the screenplay for the movie version of his first novel and is suddenly very interested in screenplays.

Anton Dudley will premiere his short play *ANTARCTICA* at the McGinn/Cazale theatre as part of Vital Theatre Company's Vital Signs Festi-

val. Ensemble Studio Theatre will present his new play *BOB* in December as part of Project35. Serving as Playwright-in-Residence this year at the Lark Play Development Center, Anton is also currently under commission from the Drama Desk Award-Winning Keen Company and Playscripts, Inc. to write a new play for both publication and a production Off-Broadway late next Spring.

Jacqueline Jones LaMon was recently featured at Magnet Theater's "Under the Influence," an evening series evening of multigenre performance combining poetry and improvisational theater in Manhattan. She also read during Cave Canem's Tenth Anniversary Celebration in New York. During the summer, Jaqueline was a guest speaker during PEN American Center's summer work-

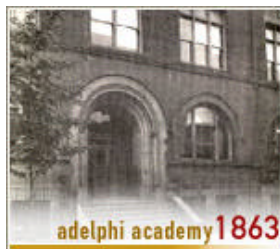
shop series for teens. She continues to work on her next book of poems, *The Elsewhere Chronicles*, which addresses the long-term missing African American children in these United States.

As Playwright-In-Residence at the Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore, Maryland, **Kermit Frazier** is currently teaching weekend writing workshops and preparing students to present their original drama at the museum in February, 2007. His new living-history play, *The Road To Freedom*, is in rehearsal at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and he is writing a second one about black entertainment in early 20th century Baltimore.

(continued on next page, 5)



Jacqueline Jones LaMon



Adelphi's Original Building

OUR OFFICE, Harvey Hall 215 is the program's gathering space.

bricks and mortar

A sofa, comfortable chairs, a computer wired to the Internet, and lots of books and journals make it a great place to catch up before class and unwind after. The notice boards are a

community effort—everyone can post news and new work amid the announcements. This place is for all of us. Let us know what we can do to make it better.

more faculty news...

Kermit continues to be a freelance writer for the new hit Nickelodeon children's animation series, *Wonder Pets*.

Martha Cooley led a panel on "Using Historical Characters and Events in Fiction" at the AWP annual conference in Austin, Texas, in March. The paperback of her second novel, *Thirty-Three Swoons*, was published in July by Little, Brown. An article on Pirandello's fiction appeared in the October-November issue of the *AWP Chronicle*. A short story, "The Month Girls," is

forthcoming in the third issue of *A Public Space*. Martha's novels were the focus of a public "Literary Evening" sponsored by Agropolis (a nonprofit foundation) in Cremona, Italy, this July, and she led a one-day writing workshop at the Tuscan Sun Festival for the Arts in Cortona, Italy, in August.

Igor Webb is presently finishing *Now That They Are Dead*, a collection of memoirs and interconnected stories in the voice of a second-generation Holocaust survivor. The title story appeared in *Partisan*

Review. "Buster Brown's America" appeared in *The American Scholar* and a long story, "Schwermer in Paris," will appear in the Winter 2007 edition of the *Notre Dame Review*.

The opening chapter of his book of criticism *Re Reading The Nineteenth Century*, "Reading Mary Barton," appeared in the journal *Literary Imagination* in 2005. *The Prospect Reader*, a first-year composition reader he edited, will be published by McGraw Hill in January 2007.



Imraan Coovadia

also coming up...

MAY: AU in Brooklyn

The university first opened on Adelphi Street in Brooklyn (1896), and we are going home for a day. A reading of **Adelphi MFA faculty who live in Brooklyn** (that's four of us) will take place at the [Community Bookstore](#), May 24
143 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY (718) 783- 3075.

AUGUST: AU in Siena

Martha Cooley and Judith Baumel will lead the [Siena School for the Liberal Arts Summer Writing Workshops](#) in Siena, Italy. Intensive, intimate fiction and poetry workshops will be held August 5-11 in the stunning medieval Tuscan city.



Palazzo Ravizza in Siena



Martha Cooley

Here's a brief, [eclectic listing of places](#) we've been checking out lately:

Websites: [BookForum](#)

[www.bookforum.com](#) is doing a lot of very good reviewing of books of all kinds (including theater and visual arts).

From here you can click your way to literary nirvana: [www.Languagehat.com](#)

...and in cyberspace

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs [AWP](#) advances the art of writing as essential to a good education, and serves the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Since 1967, AWP has supported writers and writing programs around the world. LOTS of membership benefits to all of us. In Harvey 215 you can pick up a copy of the quarterly journal, and on the web site you can find all sorts of professional development services. <http://www.awpwriter.org/>

Poets & Writers, Inc. is a source of information, support, and guidance for creative writers. Poets & Writers Online includes a searchable database of over 6,000 writers; advice on topics such as copyright, publishing, and finding a writers conference; along with links to over 1,500 Web sites of interest to writers.

They have a great electronic Bulletin Board: [Speakeasy Message Forum](#), a meeting place and community center for writers world-wide. <http://www.pw.org>

Students will graduate from our MFA Program with a robust and realistic awareness of what a "life in letters" entails

The Academy of American Poets supports American poets at all stages of their careers. It created and still runs National Poetry Month (April) and administers prestigious poetry awards. The website has fantastic online educational resources; the Poetry Audio Archive and more are at <http://www.poets.org>

PEN is the world's oldest human rights organization and the oldest international literary organization. In addition to defending writers in prison or in danger of imprisonment for their work, PEN American Center sponsors public literary programs. www.pen.org

The Writers's Birthdays Site <http://www.waterborolibrary.org/births/bsept.htm#months>



Kermit Frazier

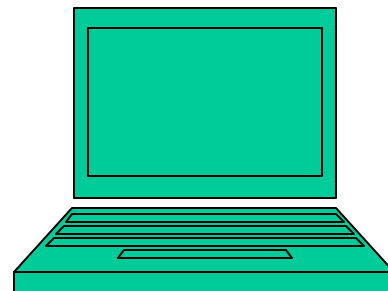
litBlogs

The Elegant Variation (www.marksarvas.com)

Fresh Eyes (www.fresheyessnow.com)

Lit-Blog Coop (www.lbc.typepad.com)

Louise Crawford runs a good Brooklyn-based reading series at the Old Stone House in Park Slope. Here's her blog www.onlytheblogknowsbrooklyn.typepad.com



Recent visitors to the program

These writers, whose collective work spans fiction, poetry, and playwriting, have visited recently. In readings, classes, and seminars, they shared their work and writing experience with students.

Mike Albo
 Jeffery Reynard Allen
 Pascal Armande
 Sally Ball
 Calvin Baker (*coming soon*)
 Jorge Ignacio Cortinas
 Steven Cramer
 Stephen Cramer

Stuart Dischell
 B.H. Fairchild
 Elizabeth Gaffney
 Peter Gaitens
 David Greenspan
 Matthea Harvey
 Amy Hempel
 Edward Hirsch
 Mary-Beth Hughes (*coming soon*)
 Mark Jarman
 Jacqueline Johnson
 Lawrence Joseph
 Wayne Koestenbaum
 Sheila Kohler (*coming soon*)
 Donna Masini
 Gail Mazur

Keith Nobbs
 Lynn Nottage
 D. Nurkse
 Nuala O'Faolain
 Ishle Park
 Molly Peacock
 Edwin Sanchez
 Julie Sheehan
 Christopher Shinn
 Martha Southgate
 Terese Svoboda
 George Szirtes
 Monica Youn



Judith Baumel

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 Harvey 200A
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 & 1:30-2
Cooley@adelphi.edu

Imraan Coovadia
 Harvey Hall 208
 Ext. 4027
 M 3:45-4:15; 5:30-6, 8:30-10;
 W 3:45-4:15, 5:30-7:00, 9:30-10;
 F 3-4
Coovadia@adelphi.edu

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Dudley2@adelphi.edu

Jennifer Fleischner
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 T 12-4; W 12-1; R 1-4
Fleischner@adelphi.edu

Kermit Frazier
 Harvey Hall 211
 Ext. 4023
 M 2:30-5:30, TR 10-11:30
Frazier@adelphi.edu

Kris Fresonke
 Harvey Hall 210
 Ext. 4021
 M 11-1; T 9-11, R 9-11
Fresonke@adelphi.edu

Jacqueline Jones LaMon
 Harvey 218
 Ext. 4164
 TR 4:30-6:00, W 10-1
LaMon@adelphi.edu

Michael Matto
 Harvey Hall 202
 Ext. 4165
 MW 11-12, 2:30-4:00; F 11-12
Matto@adelphi.edu

Christopher Mayo
 Harvey Hall 205
 Ext. 4033
 M 5:30-6:30, T 11-3, W 1-2
Mayo@adelphi.edu

Adam McKeown
 Harvey Hall 207
 Ext. 4034
 TR 4:30-6:30, W 4-6
McKeown@adelphi.edu

Lahney Preston
 Harvey Hall 206
 Ext. 4037
 M 2:30-3:30, W 12:30-3, F
 9:30-10
Prestonmatto@adelphi.edu

Igor Webb
 Harvey Hall 212
 Ext. 4030
 MWF 10-11, 12-1
Webb@adelphi.edu

Susan Weisser
 (on leave)
 Harvey Hall 209
 Ext. 4036
Weisser@adelphi.edu



Anna E. Harvey
 Dean of the College,
 1912-1935 and name-
 sake of our building

Spring 2007 Courses Graduate Literature/Theory

(for MFA and Education Grad students)

ENG 611 Genre Development Novel *THE ACADEMIC NOVEL*

W 7:00pm – 9:30pm Baumel

We could start with Socrates in "The Clouds." Instead, we will visit Aristophanes-like comedy as we jump to the mid twentieth century to investigate what Elaine Showalter has called "the Professorman....a full social history of the university, as well as a spiritual, political, and psychological guide to the profession."

Reading List:

The Groves of Academe by Mary McCarthy
Pictures from an Institution by Randall Jarrell
The Masters by C. P. Snow
Pnin by Vladimir Nabokov
Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis
Changing Places by David Lodge
The Blue Angel by Francine Prose
The Human Stain by Philip Roth
The Crazy by Ha Jin
Japanese by Spring by Ishmael Reed
Moo by Jane Smiley
Straight Man by Richard Russo

ENG 612 Genre Development Drama *T 4:00pm – 6:30 pm Frazier*

This course will explore the work of the late great playwright, August Wilson, delving not only into form and content but also social and historical contexts. We will read and discuss all ten plays in his 20th century cycle of plays about the African American experience. We will also read selected critical texts and attend at least one performance of a Wilson play.

ENG 638 Teaching Writing, Theory & Practice

M 4:00pm – 6:30 pm Matto

The subject of this course is the history of rhetorical theory and the practice of teaching composition. The study of rhetoric has a long and storied history--academies, colleges and universities were teaching

rhetoric long before they took up "literary criticism" in the modern sense. We will consider the cultural and ideological pressures that have shaped that history, the impact of such pressures on actual classroom practice, and the current state of the discipline. We will start at the beginning of the Western tradition (Plato and Aristotle), then move quickly through the history of rhetoric, stopping to linger in the 20th century and the development of "composition studies" in the United States.

ENG 661 Antiquity & Modernity *W 4:00pm – 6:30pm McKeown*

This course explores the influence of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East on the literature and culture of the West. The Renaissance that began in fourteenth-century Italy is the most famous case of this influence, but there have been many geographically, historically, and intellectually discrete efforts by authors and artists working within the Western tradition to absorb and synthesize the creative energies of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East.

Be sure to register soon,
before the end of the fall
semester, or you may not
get the classes you want.

Use ecampus — with
the single log-in you
have access to the
C.L.A.S.S. registration
packet, the library,
BlackBoard, the commu-
nity bulletin boards and
more.

MFA Program Workshop Courses:

(for MFA graduate students only)

ENG 640 Fiction Workshop *T 7:00-9:30 Cooley*

In this workshop, students will read and critique the work of published authors as well as their own stories. Particular emphasis will be placed on the shaping and pacing of narratives, the development of strong voices, and the creation of memorable characters. Revision is an essential component of this workshop.

ENG 641 Poetry Workshop *R 4:00-6:30pm LaMon*

This workshop aims to create a community of dedicated writers and readers who challenge themselves and support each other. Students will produce substantial new drafts of independent work weekly, develop close editing skills, analyze late twentieth century and contemporary poetry in written and oral presentations, read and discuss essays on poetics, and engage in that ancient communal experience of memorizing and reciting poetry.

Students will develop the necessary writing and critical skills to serve them in professional writing careers. Students will consider thoughtful and practical approaches to the life of the artist and the creative process, will articulate and extend their craft-- poetics, voice, prosody, etc. and will also look to understanding audience and setting professional goals.

ENG 642 Playwriting Workshop *R 7:00pm-9:30pm Dudley*

GRADUATE PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP: Advanced study in the art and craft of playwriting, with emphasis on structure as the spine of storytelling and the creation of personal methodology. Aside from weekly exercises, students will be expected to complete drafts and revisions of both a Ten-Minute Play and Full-Length Play. Through weekly written exercises, and the creation and development of a full length play, students will continue to develop their voices and experience as playwrights. Additional reading and attending plays will round out the experience of the class.

This is an advanced playwriting workshop intended for graduate and upper level undergraduate students with some experience in playwriting.

ENG 799 Practicum *F 4:00pm – 5:30 pm Baumel*

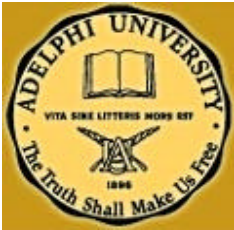
***Meeting At The Manhattan Center:
75 Varick Street (at Canal)***

A weekly practicum designed to help MFA students develop thoughtful and practical approaches to the life of the artist and the creative process. Through weekly conversations with various members of the arts community, students can make professional connections with mentors, publishers, producers, granting institutions, etc. Students will learn how to identify and pursue career paths available to creative writers by considering job opportunities, networking, mentoring, publishing and long term career management.

Required Course for All MFA Students.

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BE ONE OF THE PEOPLE
ON WHOM NOTHING IS
LOST—Henry James

[http://academics.adelphi.edu/
artsci/creativewriting/](http://academics.adelphi.edu/artsci/creativewriting/)

