Established in 2003 with a gift from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is a non-academic university center dedicated to offering talks, readings, classes, workshops, and other literary events and programs for the larger community.

As a center, we aspire to be a point of reference in people’s lives—a way of orienting oneself in relationship to others, of finding a direction—by creating moments of individual, social, and cultural significance around creative writing and contemporary literature.

To learn more about who we are and what we do, visit our website at http://piper.asu.edu
Dear Friends,

A letter from Director Alberto Álvaro Ríos

Given everything we as a team are doing at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, and having now completed my second year as director, I am happy to redouble the original enthusiasm I offered at the beginning of my tenure. Things are happening, important things, good things, worthy things, fun things, all in the inclusive operative sensibility that I call working with a bias toward meaning. We mean to matter, and we are doing all we can to make that our measure.

We continue to create a greater architecture for everything that is Piper, something to hold, keep, and build on the reverberations of what we do. We are building something to fill the often-empty spaces in today’s actual news. We speak to craft, to thought, to dreams.

We view every year as a new opportunity not simply to do, but to learn. With an increasingly sophisticated set of metrics and participant feedback, ciphering out what has worked and what hasn’t met the goal we had hoped for is helping us to shape our direction in positive and informed ways. To that end, we have had a banner year. Nevertheless, in all those numbers we want to keep squarely in mind that those numbers are people, thinkers, writers, participants. Success, from our point of view, is more than numbers on a page. Something I am fond of saying is that a dictionary is efficient, but a poem is effective. We at the Center want to be effective in what we do—these are the numbers we look for.

We have lain the foundation for the Thousand Languages Project and expect to get it up and running this fall. With the support and partnership of the College and the Department of English, we created a Piper Fellow in Residence position, a post-MFA opportunity in an effort to give a writer a career boost, much like a post-doctoral position. Our first selection for the position was successfully hired into a regular, tenure-track position by another institution, which we feel very pleased about. We hope to continue the position and the opportunity. We are doubling down on our efforts at artistic outreach into the local and greater communities. We have hired new staff specifically for this purpose and we will be rolling out new programming and interactivity this fall. We are offering community creative writing classes, both at Piper and online, with some in Spanish. We are presenting readings and talks from authors who both visit our city and call it home. We are providing qualified creative writing students with international opportunities, expanding our sense of what that means, both philosophically and geographically. The Desert Nights Rising Stars annual conference continues to sizzle.

I want to thank again our remarkable and caring staff. We have found good, common ground in the things we do and want to still accomplish, and we are working together to see them through. And of course, it is always meaningful to reflect on the chance to make this all possible through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, who have steadfastly given us unwavering support.

But most of all, thank you. I urge you to look at our website, attend our programs, take a class, make a suggestion. Your support—your interest in what we are doing—is at the heart of this entire enterprise. Join us. Build with us. Help us to find the home that is this house.
About the Piper Center

A home for writers, readers, and the community

OUR HISTORY

Following a philanthropic legacy of supporting arts and culture throughout the Valley, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust founded the center with a historic gift to Arizona State University in 2003.

Envisioned as a catalyst for dynamic leadership in creative writing and contemporary literature, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing was tasked with organizing a conference, presenting visiting writers, and developing other outreach programs and initiatives that would enrich the intellectual and artistic life of Arizona State University, the Phoenix metropolitan area, and the state of Arizona as a whole.

The Piper Center’s founding Artistic Director, Jewell Parker Rhodes, laid the groundwork for the center’s signature programming and led us to where we are today. Other leadership over the years has included T.R. Hummer, Peter Turchi, and Interim Director Matt Bell. ASU University Professor and Arizona Inaugural Poet Laureate Alberto Álvaro Ríos was appointed as the new Director in 2017.
MISSION & GOALS

As a center, we aspire to be a point of reference in people’s lives—a way of orienting oneself in relation to others, of finding a direction—by creating moments of individual, social, and cultural significance around creative writing and contemporary literature.

• Connecting writers and readers of all genres and backgrounds across multiple disciplines and fields of interest

• Supporting writers in every stage of their development by providing challenging, diverse, and accessible educational opportunities

• Enriching the Valley’s cultural life by fostering an active, engaged literary community

• Driving a dynamic creative environment throughout Arizona and the entire Southwest

• Encouraging mutual understanding through international cultural and artistic exchange

• Promoting the value that art is integral to all our lives, and making its benefits accessible to the larger community

WHAT WE DO

To this end, we offer a comprehensive array of literary events and programs within and beyond the Phoenix metropolitan area.

• The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, presenting talks, readings, and other points of access with the national and international creative writing field

• The Piper Writers Studio, offering classes, workshops, and other dynamic educational opportunities for writers of all backgrounds, genres, and skill levels

• The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference, connecting hundreds of writers together every late February at ASU through the celebration and study of literary craft, culture, and community

Additionally, the Piper Center has a rich history of supporting the Creative Writing Program at ASU through scholarships, fellowships, and other opportunities to deepen student education and advance their work. We also lead numerous outreach efforts and other initiatives beyond ASU to engage with various individuals and groups across the larger community.

OUR HOUSE

Designed by territorial architect James Creighton in 1907—the same designer of the Original Normal School, the first building at ASU—the Piper Writers House went through several past lives as the President’s Cottage, the Alumni Offices, and the University Archives before arriving at its final incarnation.

Today, the house serves as an office for Piper Center staff members, with additional space for meetings, classes, receptions, and other small events. The house also features a brickyard with signatures from past visiting writers, and lush gardens perfect for reading, writing, or enjoying a peaceful lunch.

OUR NAME

By proudly bearing the name of Virginia G. Piper, we serve to create a mantra, a daily reminder of Virginia’s life, values, and impact of giving: striving to live up to her vision with humility, honor, sound judgment, and heart, and finding opportunities in our own lives for doing the most good.
The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University  |  Annual Report 2019

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In everything we do, we operate with a bias toward meaning. Guided by our mission to serve communities throughout Arizona with innovative, inspiring, and accessible creative events and programs, this past year has been a period of focus and growth for the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, with special attention on deepening our relationships with local communities and individuals.

THE DISTINGUISHED VISITING WRITERS SERIES

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series organized a record **31 talks, readings, and other community events**, presenting **40 authors to more than 2,500 people**. In addition, the series also integrated a continuing partnership with Piper Writers Studio to align speaker events with opportunities for deeper workshop engagement, and began partnering with the newly renovated Burton Barr Library in downtown Phoenix to increase access within the community.

A year of connection and investment

THE PIPER WRITERS STUDIO

The Piper Writers Studio offered **29 classes and workshops to nearly 380 students** across many genres and forms, including screenwriting, memoir, flash fiction, poetry, performance, musicality, fairy tales, science fiction, revision, publishing, and more. The Piper Center continued to offer more bilingual classes, pay-what-you-can models, visiting faculty, and online courses, with plans to advance these initiatives in the coming year.

WRITING CONFERENCES

This year, the Piper Center hosted two large-scale creative writing conferences. In November, the international **NonfictionNOW** conference drew approximately 500 writers, readers, and scholars to Phoenix to discuss contemporary topics in creative nonfiction. Months later, celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Piper Center’s annual **Desert Nights, Rising Stars** Writers Conference presented 55 faculty members in more than 60 sessions to nearly 350 writers in attendance.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Partnering with community platforms to feature and serve more writers than ever before, the Piper Center led **over 20 creative writing workshops** for **more than 120 students** at Dunbar Elementary School.

STUDENT PROGRAMS & FELLOWSHIPS

Launched in the Fall of 2017, Volta programming provides creative writing students at ASU with a broad array of programs and resources to support their education and prepare them for the transition out of academic life, including mentorships, student showcases, readings, and much more.

The Center also offers numerous opportunities for graduate students and faculty at ASU to advance their research and participate in international exchange. Two students taught creative writing classes at the National University of Singapore, two students pursued independent creative research projects in Mexico and Portugal, and two students received funding to participate in prestigious national writing residencies and workshops.

HAYDEN’S FERRY REVIEW & THOUSAND LANGUAGES

*Hayden’s Ferry Review*, the semi-annual, international literary journal edited by the MFA creative writing students at Arizona State University, began working with a Supervising Editor to help grow the journal and to launch the Thousand Languages Project. This dynamic, multilingual translation project and database explores the art of literary translation through featured essays, poems, short stories, interviews, and other work drawn from the catalogue of *Hayden’s Ferry Review* and translated into many other languages.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Working with ASU’s Center for Science and the Imagination, the Piper Center published *Everything Change Volume II*, a climate fiction anthology that has been featured in publications and downloaded by readers from around the world. Other partnerships included the University of Arizona Poetry Center, the ASU Department of English, and various ASU student organizations.
The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series

Bringing nationally recognized writers to our local community

ABOUT THE SERIES

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series endeavors to create lasting connections between the local literary communities and the creative writing field as a whole by presenting talks, readings, and literary-focused partnerships that highlight important voices in contemporary literature.

As the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing is committed to ensuring that all individuals have the ability to participate in the literary arts, all Visiting Writer events are free and open to the public and held in a range of community venues around the Valley.

Outside of public events, authors also host small workshops in partnership with the Piper Writers Studio, engage in intimate craft talks with undergraduate and graduate Creative Writing students, visit ASU classes, and participate in other activities that create more meaningful experiences for our communities.

THIS YEAR’S SERIES

This year, The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing helped put together 31 talks, readings, and other community events, presenting 40 writers to more than 2,500 audience members in attendance. The center also began an important rebrand of the Distinguished Visiting Writers Series that highlights authors of all genres and seeks to increase community impact.

Events offered a combination of intimate craft-focused conversations, creative readings and reflections, and passionate calls to action. Among the authors featured, Carolina Ebeid confronted creative existence in a violent and wounded world, Ursula Vernon explored the art of the fairy tale, Gregory Pardlo presented new ways of constructing voice and dialect, Abdi Nor Iftin shared the impacts of language and culture in his journey to American citizenship, Cherrie Moraga and Vanessa Angélica Villarrreal examined their Mexican-American histories through unique and personal lenses, and Ofelia Zepeda shared indigenous responses to the Arizona landscape and the U.S.-Mexico border.
COLLABORATION

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series presented writers, including award-winning YA author Todd Mitchell and Tahoma Literary Review editor Yi Shun Lai, in partnership with the Piper Writers Studio, Changing Hands community bookstore, and other strategic partnerships within the Valley. These hybrid visits featured a separate creative workshop event as well as a reading and conversation, which maximized engagement by offering an additional opportunity to work more closely with each author.

A focus on genre fiction helped develop a partnership with the newly renovated Burton Barr Library in downtown Phoenix, which will continue to be an active programming space for our events. The Piper Center also deepened its work with the University of Arizona Poetry Center to feature local visiting writer events with Tommy Pico, Morgan Parker, Nikky Finney, Naomi Shihab Nye, Charles Simic, and ASU alumna Sara Sams.

Working with ASU professor Natalie Diaz, we were also able to launch a pilot partnership with MFA students to plan and program visits from authors like Vanessa Angélica Villareal. In doing so, we mentor graduate students through the process of selecting and planning an author visit, providing an important professional experience for their careers in the arts.

Beyond enriching our programming, these relationships help us present and examine writing within a larger cultural marketplace, expanding our audience and building a more diverse literary community.
The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University  |  Annual Report 2019

The Piper Writers Studio

Supporting writers at every stage of their development

ABOUT THE WRITERS STUDIO

Wherever someone is in their creative journey—from published authors to those just starting out, even people who don’t consider themselves writers at all—we believe everyone has a story to tell. Everyone has the right and ability to express themselves, and has something unique and special to give back to the world. We believe in the power of words, and that education can transform dreams into realities. Whatever someone’s level of experience, we welcome all learners who want to share their voice, creativity, and imagination.

The Piper Writers Studio lays the foundation for our educational programming by providing a diverse and comprehensive array of classes, workshops, and other high-quality educational opportunities across multiple genres, subject areas, and points of delivery. In keeping class sizes small, we create a space where each writer has a voice in the classroom, ensuring that each person’s work is honored with the thoughtfulness, care, and attention it deserves.

THIS YEAR’S STUDIO

Piper Writers Studio classes served hundreds of writers in the community and generated increased revenue which was invested in an array of new educational initiatives: summer programs, online courses, and free workshops—including a popular bilingual poetry intensive for teens ages 14-19. Many of the teachers were ASU faculty or visiting writers, offering diverse educational options for our local communities. Graduate creative writing students at ASU were also paid to teach Piper Writers Studio courses for the first time, which supported their professional development as writers and teachers. Additionally, the studio began accepting unsolicited course proposals, encouraging engagement with authors and educators interested in teaching with the Piper Center for the first time.

Through valuable partnerships and community-minded approaches, the Piper Center served nearly 380 writers across 29 classes and workshops this year, exploring a myriad of topics like screenwriting, memoir, flash fiction, poetic forms, performance, musicality, fairy tales, science fiction, revision, publishing, and more.
While we strive to keep our courses affordable, many community members are faced with obligations and responsibilities that make taking a creative writing class a challenge. Last year, the Piper Center launched a pay-what-you-can model, and this year offered four free courses to teens and other community members, which removed financial barriers to education and brought its benefits closer within reach.

**VISITING FACULTY**

The Piper Center continued its visiting faculty model in collaboration with the Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, Natalie Diaz’s [archi]TEXTS series, and other partnerships, widening our range of educational opportunities while allowing individuals to build stronger national networks and connect with writers from other regions, states, and cities. **11 visiting faculty** were hosted this year, including Andrea Scarpino, Eduardo C. Corral, Ursula Vernon, Todd Mitchell, Yi Shun Lai, Dan Beachy-Quick, and more.

**SUMMER CLASSES**

In spring 2019, fellowships were created for **three MFA students** to support their engagement in community teaching. Doing so created opportunities for graduate students to build out their teaching portfolios while filling an area of critical need within the larger community.

**ONLINE LEARNING**

As part of our growing online learning initiatives, the Piper Center offered **two online courses** on novel revision and publishing opportunities, expanding programmatic reach to individuals who are unable to attend in-state or in-person courses. These opportunities allow the center to support a larger range of needs across Arizona and the entire country.

**SHOWCASE**

The center also offered a Piper Writers Studio Showcase at Changing Hands Phoenix in early December to share and recognize the amazing work of our faculty and participants.
The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference

Two days of literary craft, culture, and community

ABOUT DESERT NIGHTS, RISING STARS

The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference creates a unique and intimate creative writing environment, welcoming writers, readers, and lovers of literature from all genres, backgrounds, and levels of experience.

More than an opportunity to engage with and learn from professional writers, Desert Nights, Rising Stars is a gathering of minds and hearts, a space where people come together through the celebration and study of literary craft, culture, and community. These vibrant relationships and connections with fellow writers make Desert Nights, Rising Stars more than just another conference—they give our conference meaning, humanity, and heart.

While the conference focuses on craft, it encompasses the many aspects of being a writer, offering concrete and practical advice for writing, editing, creative and professional development, and navigating the literary marketplace.
**THIS YEAR’S CONFERENCE**

The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference celebrated its 15th anniversary in February, and was redesigned in an exciting new format. Presenting **55 faculty in 62 sessions to nearly 350 conference attendees**, the conference grew meaningfully and developed more points of engagement for community members, including public and live-streamed readings, 20 teaching fellowships for emerging writers, an array of volunteer positions, and a free outdoor literary fair that featured 34 authors, literary organizations, and publishers. The registration rate was lowered to enhance access, and 57 scholarships were provided through various sponsoring partnerships including Letras Latinas, Kundiman, the Institute of American Indian Arts, and the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

With a shared commitment to access and education, the Piper Center worked with various partners and sponsors to award **57 scholarships** to students, veterans, and other members of the community. Support from ASU’s Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement, Superstition Review, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Barrett, the Honors College, alongside community partners like the National University of Singapore and the University of Arizona Poetry Center, made these scholarships possible.

**DESERT NIGHTS FELLOWS**

One of the most exciting additions to the conference this year was the Desert Nights Fellowship Program, which allowed **20 individuals** from around the world to apply to teach alongside our other conference faculty through a competitive application process. Fellowship applications were selected with a close eye toward community engagement and social justice, to allow our conference participants a wide variety of diverse perspectives in creative writing.

**ADVANCED WORKSHOPS**

The conference also reinstated Advanced Workshops on creative writing craft for participants and community members before the start of the conference. Registration for these sessions was open to the public to allow for increased educational access to some of the popular visiting conference faculty.

**LITERARY FAIR**

The new Desert Nights Literary Fair was free and open to the public, and hosted in collaboration with ASU’s Open Door festivities. Over **34 literary journals, organizations, and authors** were featured, including Cardboard House Press, the Heard Museum, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Read Better Be Better, Red Hen Press, Tolsun Books, and Wasted Ink Zine Distro, among others.

**MFA PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Additionally, the Piper Center was able to offer **free access** for all MFA students in ASU’s Creative Writing program, and to feature students as moderators and interviewers with conference faculty, helping them gain valuable professional experience and greater engagement with visiting authors.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

This year’s keynote speaker was **Carmen Giménez Smith**, who spoke on autobiography and the intersection of the aesthetic and the intellectual as a path toward transformation.

On Saturday, [archi]TEXTS hosted “**De Las Islas: A Celebration of Cuba and Puerto Rico**,” a reading with authors Achy Obejas, Jennine Capó Crucet, and Nicole Sealey, which was offered free and open to the public with additional live-streaming to allow for expanded audience.
NonfictioNOW

Exploring the past, present, and future of nonfiction

ABOUT NONFICTIONNOW

The NonfictioNOW Conference is a regular gathering of over 500 nonfiction writers, teachers, readers, and students from around the world in an effort to explore the past, present, and future of nonfiction. NonfictioNOW is unique in being neither a conventional academic conference nor a writers’ festival, but rather a conversation among peers, from well-established writers and artists to those just starting out.

NonfictioNOW gathers leading writers to share notes with emerging peers and audiences on the intricate challenges and intriguing delights of writing and reading nonfiction NOW. The growing success of this conference highlights the great energy and interest in the art of nonfiction storytelling in all its forms, from literary and political essays and memoir to video essays and reality TV. Past NonfictioNOW conferences have been hosted in Iowa City, Melbourne, and Reykjavík, and the conference changes location each year to ensure it engages a spectrum of international writers and perspectives.

THIS YEAR’S CONFERENCE

In 2018, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing hosted NonfictioNOW in partnership with board members from around the world. The conference saw 510 attendees including 203 panelists, 100 students, 25 volunteers, and over 20 sponsors and partners ranging from individual authors to several prominent universities, journals, and literary organizations. Hosted at the downtown Phoenix Renaissance Hotel with keynotes at the historic Orpheum Theater, the conference also drew attention to local trends, topics, and scholarship.

The center’s work on this conference engaged key questions of accessibility, inclusivity, and diversity, and created a structure that will help NonfictioNOW continue to grow and advance.

This year’s headlining speakers included Tucson writer, translator, and educator Francisco Cantú, presenting on the psychogeography of the Borderlands; prolific and award-winning writer Gretel Ehrlich on her research and writing in the arctic; and travel memoirist Stephanie Elizondo Griest on art as a reason to live and survive.
HÚSLESTUR

Húslestor, from the Icelandic, refers to the family custom of gathering at night to read aloud and discuss ideas. At the conference, we invited attendees to join us for Húslestor sessions to consider and engage in conversation with other writers on the following topics: Pedagogy, Translation and Hybrid Forms, Writing the Body and Self, Writing for Social Change, and Hauntings.

PARTNERSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Many organizational partners joined the Piper Center in supporting NonfictioNOW’s development and success, creating numerous scholarships for ASU students and writers from all over the world. These partners included ASU’s School of International Letters and Cultures and Humanities division of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, along with RMIT University, Northern Arizona University, the Whiting Foundation, College of the Holy Cross, and Massey University of New Zealand, among others.

BOOKFAIR

The NonfictioNOW Bookfair featured a variety of national and international publishers, journals, and programs, alongside a number of local literary organizations and communities. Authors attending the conference also joined together to host tables and share their work.

PERFORMANCES

In addition to the evening keynotes, the conference hosted interactive nonfiction performances to engage audiences in the potential of the form. Presented in partnership with Speculative Nonfiction Journal, Thursday night’s NonfictionWOW! quiz show tested audience knowledge of everything Creative Nonfiction—from surprising history and ephemera to the essentials of craft and theory. On Friday night, in partnership with RMIT University, Diary Bingo Karaoke offered a night of collaged diary readings and communal conference merrymaking.
ABOUT STORY DAYS

Story Days originated in a $100,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2016. In partnership with the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture and ASU’s Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Alberto Ríos worked with 7th and 8th grade students at Dunbar Elementary school in South Phoenix to produce artistic, literary, and musical responses to the places they lived, culminating in a final performance in spring 2017.

The success of the grant-funded program inspired the Piper Center to continue the relationship with Dunbar Elementary into future years with support from the center’s own resources. The program’s ongoing mission is to instill confidence, strengthen reading and writing skills, and engage participants in creative projects that aim to ensure their future successes in a multitude of endeavors.

THIS YEAR’S PROGRAM

Over the course of the year, the Piper Center led a total of 16 workshops serving more than 120 students in fourth through sixth grade at Dunbar Elementary.

Beginning the semester, students decorated and personalized their writing notebooks to make them their own. Throughout the year, students experimented with collages, erasures, and other forms of found poetry to make art out of their everyday lives, with lesson plans on building up sensory awareness, creating mixed media narratives, and writing personal narratives and various forms of epistolary, among others. Resulting work was collected into a small zine, Voices from Dunbar: Volume II, modeled after the notebooks the students designed. During the end-of-year recital, students and their families celebrated with copies of their published writing to take home.
MEET YOUR COMMUNITY

In October, the Piper Center partnered with the Open Air Market at the Phoenix Public Market to present Meet Your Literary Community, which featured nearly 50 local authors, publishers, and other literary organizations for a morning of talks, readings, and literary festivities. Over 1,000 community members walked through.

KJZZ STORYFEST & AUTHORS SHOWCASE

The Piper Center partnered with local NPR affiliate KJZZ on their annual StoryFest and Authors Showcase in December and June. StoryFest provided community members with a much needed local platform to market their books and connect with other authors. Over 50 authors presented at each event.

PHOESTIVUS BOOK GIVEAWAY

Continuing our partnership with the Phoenix Public Market, the Piper Center donated over 200 books to community members at the market’s annual Phoestivus event.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

In our continuing efforts to serve writers and readers throughout the Valley, the Piper Center presented free talks and workshops at local community events, including a workshop based on PBS’s Great American Read with the Tempe Public Library in October, an open conversation and survey of the creative writing field at the Wick- enburg Literary Festival in April, and a marketing seminar and presentation for local authors at the KJZZ Arizona StoryFest and Author’s Showcase in June.

#PHXLITSERV

On June 22nd, the Piper Center launched #PhxLit-Serv (pronounced Phoenix Lit Serve), a marketing and outreach program that aims to help creative writing community organizers stay connected and develop relationships as they work toward larger goals. The response was phenomenal, with over 50 organizers, teachers, and other community leaders from all over the state convening at the Piper Writers House to begin planning.
Volta Student Programs

Building a stronger community of creative writing students at ASU

ABOUT VOLTA STUDENT PROGRAMS

In her introduction to The Penguin Book of the Sonnet, the poet Phillis Levin speaks of “the volta, the ‘turn’ that introduces into the poem a possibility for transformation, like a moment of grace.”

Founded in fall of 2017, Volta provides creative writing students at Arizona State University with strategic resources and support for the transition out of academic life, setting them up for long-term success in the professional literary field. In its second year, Volta served a full class of nearly 150 creative writing students through a wide array of events, programs, activities, and services, with a particular focus on networking, professionalization, social well-being, and community development.

INTERNSHIPS

Over the course of the year, the Piper Center led two undergraduate student internships with Addison Gallegos and Jack Smith.

CELEBRATING ASU STUDENTS

In the fall, the ASU Undergraduate Writers Showcase presented ten student writers to a Piper Writers House that was standing-room only. In spring, the Creative Writing Symposium created and displayed 21 framed broadsides to recognize the end of the Creative Writing major requirements for undergraduates. Throughout the year, 30 undergraduate students volunteered to read their creative work over the course of six gatherings of the inaugural Undergraduate Reading Series, with 100% of participants reading their work publicly for the first time.

MENTORING PROGRAMS

Building on the strong foundation laid last year, the Piper Center continued its successful graduate-undergraduate Mentoring Program. Six MFA mentors were paired with six undergraduate mentees, assisting them with an array of goals and projects, including applying for MFA programs, workshopping, publishing, and investing in their literary community. These relationships have proven to be invaluable, resulting in ongoing friendships and professional support.
After the MFA

In partnership with the Creative Writing program’s alumni reading series, After the MFA programs invite current graduate students to lead panels and Q&A sessions with recent ASU graduates. This year’s alumni speakers were Dorothy Chan, Dana Diehl, Iliana Rocha, Vedran Husic, and Elizabyth Hiscox. Beyond building stronger relationships across the program, After the MFA gives alumni a chance to reflect on their accomplishments and the value of their education as they give back to the community.

Special Engagements with Visiting Writers

Over casual dinners at local restaurants and intimate conversations in small groups and class visits, students are given unparalleled access to visiting writers, creating crucial networking opportunities and moments of human connection. This year, the Piper Center also hosted a salon for visiting writers with Natalie Diaz and graduate students in the MFA program, featuring authors Ricky Laurentiis, Roger Reeves, Solmaz Sharif, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, and R.O. Kwon.

Professional Development

The Piper Center empowers students with additional opportunities to put their education into practice while giving back to the community:

- Presenting workshops and moderating panels at the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference;
- Sharing their work at the conference’s MFA Reading; and
- Teaching summer classes through the Piper Writers Studio.

The Piper Center also mentors students through the steps of developing research projects and fellowship proposals to help hone their skills as they begin to pursue grants, fellowships, residencies, workshops, and other opportunities and funding as professional working writers.
Global Teaching Fellowships

Six weeks teaching abroad at the National University of Singapore

ABOUT GLOBAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

Founded in 2005, the Virginia G. Piper Global Teaching Fellowship is the center’s longest running international exchange program, offering competitive $7,000 fellowships for graduate students in the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University to teach creative writing classes at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

THIS YEAR’S FELLOWSHIPS

This year’s teaching fellows were David Joseph and Noah Trammell, who co-taught high school and undergraduate honor students at the National University of Singapore for over six weeks.

While the United States offers numerous graduate programs and community classes, opportunities to study creative writing in Singapore are relatively scarce. As such, fellows worked closely to develop syllabi, lesson plans, reading lists, prompts, and other course materials that would provide students with a comprehensive training in literary practice, covering generative writing, reading, workshop, revision, publication, and more.

Similarly, rather than restricting the class to a regiment of rigid workshops and lectures, fellows evolved an active, collaborative pedagogy that encouraged sharing, open discussion, and lively debate. The end result was a dynamic educational environment, creating an experience that transformed and restored the fellows as much as the students themselves.

“I am reminded that this is why I am here,” reflected a recent global fellow on reading the students’ final work, “that teaching and writing are really about learning. Culture, point of view, character, language, time—the rest is secondary to a willingness to sit back and listen when the room doesn’t need me or the story is no longer what I think it should be. Remember this, I think, and take it back for the times when words and metaphor and pedagogy fail, the days I feel cynical and tired. Remember the thrill of words on a page, the surprise of voices I’ve never heard before, techniques I’ve never seen. Take this hunger and enthusiasm and remind myself that it is my own.”
Virginia G. Piper Creative Research fellowships are merit-based, competitive fellowships that provide financial support for graduate students in the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University as they conduct major research projects and complete their book-length theses at Arizona State University.

This year’s Virginia G. Piper Creative Research Fellowships were awarded to graduate students James Bennett (fiction) and Maritza Estrada (poetry).

Set in the sleepy northeastern Mozambican city of Lichinga, *Panandi Panandi* follows two main characters grappling with the traditions and sins of the past as they attempt to discover their place in a world that often proves indifferent to their pleas for guidance. James Bennett conducted research in Lisbon, Portugal to study the original colonial power of his novel’s setting and more clearly understand and respond to the complexity of Mozambique’s ongoing Portuguese presence, cultural currents, and national literary canon.

Through a lens of place, displacement, and identity, Maritza Estrada’s manuscript explores homes deeply embedded in cultural, historical, and political context. By traveling to Guerrero, Morelos, Mexico City, and other locations, Estrada tracked the stories of her family and community. Her work aims to incorporate these new understandings and pass them on to the next generations of Estradas, Mexicanos, and others navigating the lenses of generational displacement.
ABOUT CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Virginia G. Piper Creative Engagement Fellowship is a merit-based fellowship awarded to full-time Master of Fine Arts students in Creative Writing at Arizona State University who have been accepted to present at or participate in a creative writing opportunity requiring financial support. Examples include presenting at a conference or festival; participating in a competitive residency, workshop, or other educational program; and other engagements that offer unique opportunities for professional and creative advancement. This fellowship award is intended to provide support for experiences that position students as leaders in their field or in their communities.

Creative Engagement Fellowships were awarded this spring to graduate students Tucker Leighty-Phillips (fiction) and Scott Daughtridge (fiction).

THIS YEAR’S FELLOWSHIPS

Tucker Leighty-Phillips received a fellowship to attend the exclusive Tin House Writer’s Workshop at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Through the Tin House program, Tucker will be able to participate in an intimate, labor-intensive workshop with Kelly Link (2018 MacArthur Fellow, 2016 Pulitzer Prize Nominee) and engage in small, student-centered classes where a diverse group of artists will learn from one another as well as their instructor.

Scott Daughtridge received a fellowship to participate in a two-week artist residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA) in Amherst, Virginia, where he will conduct research for, and continue drafting his novel-in-progress, Strange Temple. VCCA is a highly competitive artist residency program designed to deepen the quality of the resident fellows’ creative process by providing resources needed to conduct important research and develop professional-level projects, alongside opportunities for the fellows to present their work, collaborate, and network within a broader arts community.
ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The Virginia G. Piper Faculty Fellowship is a merit-based, competitive fellowship for faculty in the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University or who are otherwise affiliated with the Piper Center. It provides financial support for the research and writing of a book-length manuscript with a strong likelihood of being published.

HOLD: THE MAKING OF AN ARTIST’S BOOK

In November, the Piper Center presented an artist talk, poetry reading, and pop-up exhibition of HOLD, a collaborative artist’s book by poet and ASU Professor Sally Ball and the Dutch artist Jan Vičar. Following an artist talk with Vičar and reading with Ball from the text, guests had the opportunity to interact more closely with the completed book and purchase prints. HOLD explores many topics: climate anxiety, corporate doublespeak, international migration, nuclear energy, and the counter-intuitive beauty of the world. While the prints and text have been exhibited in Austria, France, Germany, Spain, and Tokyo, November marked the first time the book was displayed as an assembled whole. For this event, over 50 guests gathered at the Phoenix Art Museum to see the work.

HOLD was supported by a Faculty Fellowship from the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing in 2016, with additional support from the Institute for Humanities Research at Arizona State University.
Hayden’s Ferry Review

The award-winning literary journal from the Graduate Creative Writing Program at ASU

ABOUT HAYDEN’S FERRY REVIEW

Founded in 1986, Hayden’s Ferry Review (HFR) is the international, semi-annual literary journal led and curated by the MFA creative writing students at Arizona State University. Work from Hayden’s Ferry Review has been included in the Pushcart Prize Anthology, Best American Poetry, and Best New Poets, with notable pieces in Best American Short Stories, Best American Essays, and more. HFR publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, translation, art, and interviews by emerging and established authors, artists, and translators.

RENEWAL

In July 2018, the Piper Center hired a Supervising Editor to support and mentor the journal’s student editorial team. During this past school year, the team implemented procedures to both improve the quality and accuracy of the product and teach the student editors copyediting skills. They updated and relaunched the website with a more contemporary layout and design, they revitalized the blog by publishing reviews and interviews by student editors, and they drove readership to the website by posting sample content from exceptional contributors to the print issue. The print version of Hayden’s Ferry Review has also been revamped and contemporized, with a new logo that reflects modern typographical design trends. In Hayden’s Ferry Review’s recent issue 63, contributors identified themselves as being 75% women, 37% Latinx, 18% LGBTQIA, 9% African American, 6% Asian, and 3% Jewish. The journal’s student editors have worked tirelessly to make sure that Hayden’s Ferry Review represents the breadth of the literary world.

GROWTH

In the several months since publishing issue 63, Hayden’s Ferry Review has sold more than 300 print copies, exceeding the sales of the last two issues—with continued requests for 63 online. Between January and the end of May, the journal’s website reached 8,329 unique visitors, a 28% increase from the 6,516 it had received by this time last year. Since January, the site has also had 24.8k page views, up 40% from last year.
ABOUT THE THOUSAND LANGUAGES PROJECT

The Thousand Languages Project database will launch this year as a living, ever-developing literary catalogue housed online and freely accessible to the public. Drawn from thirty years of back issues of Hayden’s Ferry Review, the award-winning international literary journal run by Creative Writing MFA students at Arizona State University, and featuring guest translators including graduate students and faculty working in ASU’s School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC), it will contain work by emerging and established writers alike, translated from their native English into manifold languages. This multilingual database will be dynamically searchable, and the creative work presented within it will be complemented by events and other programming hosted through the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing and by essays and interviews exploring the art and scholarship of translation.

INTERNSHIPS

During the past school year, the Thousand Languages Project designed and announced a new internship program that targets SILC and international students working to get professional experience in literary translation. The internship, set to launch next year, will ask students to translate poems, stories, essays, and more from the Hayden’s Ferry Review archives, and to write about the process of translation. These pieces will be published and featured on the Thousand Languages Project website and added to the growing translation database.

WEBSITE

The Thousand Languages Project database will house thousands of translations generated from Hayden’s Ferry Review’s catalog. In Spring 2019, the Piper Center began design and development on the website, and in the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters, the project will host its first interns and publish its first curated issues of the project.
Partnerships, other events, and support

OTHER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Alongside major programs like the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference, the Piper Writers Studio, and the Distinguished Visiting Writers Series, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing led or participated in a number of outreach programs and other initiatives that promote creative writing and serve our community.

This year, these events and programs included a climate fiction contest with the Center for the Science and the Imagination, partnerships on community events, readings with the ASU Department of English, and support for the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University.

EVERYTHING CHANGE CLIMATE FICTION CONTEST

The impacts of climate change are more real than ever. Where science can provide us with facts and figures, literature gives us empathy, heart, and vision. In partnership with ASU’s Center for Science and the Imagination, the Imagination and Climate Futures Initiative published its second Everything Change volume of short climate fiction. The collection’s authors hailed from all over the world and were selected through a writing contest the year before. The book has attracted media attention and selections have been targeted for publication in other climate change magazines and creative anthologies to reach new audiences throughout South and Southeast Asia.

An illustrated chapbook accompanied the Phoenix premiere of Motionpoems Season 8 at FilmBar.
SUMMER SOCIAL

In August, the Piper Center held a social gathering and silent auction at Changing Hands that raised over $750 to increase access to the Piper Center’s community programming.

MOTIONPOEMS

In September, the Piper Center presented a screening of Motionpoems, a series of short films based on work from contemporary poets. Inspired by the Women’s March of 2017, the latest season of Motionpoems takes a hard and honest look at our current state of political and social affairs, focusing on themes of racism, immigration, judicial system reform, and more. Season 8 featured two films by ASU Professor and poet Natalie Diaz, “Cranes, Mafiosos and a Polaroid Camera” and “American Arithmetic.” Other poets include Tiana Clark, Eve L. Ewing, Peter LaBerge, Robin Coste Lewis, Susannah Nevison, Danez Smith, Maggie Smith, Nomi Stone, and Lee Ann Roripaugh. The screening was presented at Filmbar to over 50 community members in attendance.

CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS

In February, the Piper Center partnered with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to present a celebration, reading, and conversation with poet and ASU Professor Natalie Diaz, who received a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship earlier that year. The event was held in the Carson Ballroom at Old Main, with over 200 guests in attendance.

In May, the Piper Center presented a celebration and reading with ASU professor, poet, and inaugural Virginia G. Piper Fellow-in-Residence Bojan Louis. The event was hosted at Crescent Ballroom, with 40 guests in attendance.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Other organizations are just as much a part of our community as people themselves. This year, the Piper Center supported numerous ASU organizations and student clubs, and a number of other programs and projects that achieved a deeper impact, broadened our reach, and contributed to a more cohesive literary field:

- Championing the vibrancy and diversity of youth literature at Día De Los Niños, Día De Los Libros. In partnership with the Department of English and gathering over 15 young adult authors, poets, and storytellers, the event served more than 350 middle and high school students in a celebration of kids, language, and culture.

- Keeping poetry alive with the University of Arizona Poetry Center Series at the Phoenix Art Museum, featuring internationally-recognized talents like Morgan Parker, Tommy Pico, Charles Simic, Nikky Finney, and Naomi Shihab Nye to more than 500 community members.

- Opening our doors for launch parties, receptions, and other events with Superstition Review, Normal Noise, the Creative Writing Program, the Spanish department, the ASU Book Club, and the International Society for Literature, Science, and Art conference.

- Raising over $1,000 in donations for student clubs A-Buncha-Book-Artists and the Graduate Student English Association in coordination with Educational Outreach and Student Service’s tabling program.

- Providing scholarships for graduate students to study Creative Writing at ASU.
As the Phoenix metropolitan area continues to grow, we’re constantly evaluating how we can be of most value to the people we serve. We strive to continue fulfilling our mission with integrity and heart, connecting more people with the power of creative writing and artistic expression.

**PATIO RENOVATIONS**

The Piper Center is working with ASU to transform the Piper Writers House’s back patio into a dynamic outdoor venue for readings, workshops, and other events—expanding our responsiveness and flexibility to program, saving us valuable time and resources in planning, and creating a unique point of pride for the entire ASU community.

**THE DISTINGUISHED VISITING WRITERS SERIES**

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series is deepening its partnerships to strengthen our community impact, and complementing our readings and talks with more dynamic, innovative, community-centered formats. Alongside author events with R.L. Stine, Gabby Rivera, Jake Skeets, Marlon James, and others, the Piper Center is collaborating on unique new programming that includes a literary partnership with the AZ Opera, and support of the Phoenix Sister Cities international book festival.
THE DESERT NIGHTS, RISING STARS WRITERS CONFERENCE

As the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference continues to grow, we’re creating new points of access and featuring more voices and talent than ever before. We’re working to offer even more while staying affordable to as many in the community as we can through increased scholarships, innovative partnerships, and different attendance packages for various levels of interest and engagement.

THE PIPER WRITERS STUDIO

With a growing number of classes and workshops, both in-person and online, we’re serving more writers than ever, offering more bilingual classes, free and pay-what-you-can models, and programming for middle and high schoolers, as well as more opportunities for intensive education through online classes and mentorships.

In the coming year, the center plans to launch a Global Gateway to Creative Writing course that is free and open to the public, demonstrating ASU’s leadership in offering accessible creative writing on a global scale. An online author mentorship program is also in development to pair accomplished authors with aspiring writers of all genres around the world. Additionally, the in-person Summer Writing Intensive Fellowship Program will offer a three to four day intensive for writers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Piper Center will continue to innovate with our community partners at Dunbar Elementary next year. Through generative workshops, students will cultivate their creative voices which they can then translate into artistic design through zine creation, printmaking, and collaborative comic books. The Piper Center also plans to launch a local writing circle to provide creative space for student and community veterans to share work in their chosen genre, or to learn more about literary arts.

Other initiatives include Get Lit, a salon series in partnership with Valley Bar, and Write Here, Write Now, a pop-up writing workshop with Changing Hands and Phoenix College. #PhxLitServ, a recently-launched professional network and space that aims to help creative writing community organizers in and around Phoenix stay connected as they work toward the common good and build the local literary field, will continue to grow.

HAYDEN’S FERRY REVIEW

With a new Supervising Editor in place, the Piper Center is poised to help expand Hayden’s Ferry Review’s impact even further—offering increased professional support and training for graduate students, re-engaging with the local community, and launching an innovative translation project and archive over the coming year. The journal will also continue to pursue funding, form strategic partnerships, increase distribution, and make practical financial and creative decisions for Hayden’s Ferry Review that balance its current and future needs.

THOUSAND LANGUAGES PROJECT

The Thousand Languages Project is preparing for a big project launch, internship program, and series of publications. In the next year, the Thousand Languages Project will work to identify and solidify partnerships inside and outside of ASU in order to create translation programming that serves communities at ASU, in Arizona, and throughout the literary world.

DEVELOPMENT

The Piper Center is increasing scholarship opportunities through donor development, sponsorships, and community partnerships. We are also at work on a more comprehensive volunteer network to support tours, community tabling, and other program needs. The historic Piper Writers House will soon be open for regular public visiting hours, featuring a new Little Free Library to help share our literary resources with the entire campus.
All for You

Thank you for reading this year’s report

It all started with a gift. 15 years ago, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust established the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University. Ever since, we’ve strived to fulfill that vision with humility, honor, good judgment, and heart.

We hope you’ve enjoyed reflecting back on all of our work over the last year, and that you’ll continue to join us as we look ahead to the years to come. There are so many new initiatives and programs we’re leading in the community, and much more. Your support has made this work possible.

Your generosity has been instrumental in creating scholarships, free workshops, and other forms of access to students, educators, and members of the community. Together, we are changing the Valley’s culture and creating deep and lasting connections—one story at a time.

Please consider making your gift to the Center today at piper.asu.edu/giving.

To learn more about the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing and our work in the community, please reach out to a Piper Center staff member or visit our website at http://piper.asu.edu.

Thank you so much for being a part of what we do. We’re looking forward to seeing you soon.
When Giving is All We Have

One river gives
Its journey to the next

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give— together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

—Alberto Álvaro Ríos
Finances

An overview of center finances

THE ORIGINAL GIFT

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing was founded in 2003 with a ten million dollar gift from The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Each year the Piper Center operates with dividends from the gift, which are set up to support Operations, the Endowed Chair, the Chair in Residence, the International Exchange program, Scholarships, and Faculty Enrichment through the Trust agreement. An original non-endowed fund was also set up for Renovations of the historic Piper House, which has been utilized in full.

The Piper Center works within the Trust agreement to fulfill the mission of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, supporting and enhancing the lives of people in Arizona by offering literary programming to the community and to ASU students, staff and faculty. These literary events and programs would not be possible without the support of the Piper Trust and the work of the Piper Center.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Piper Center receives income from the Trust Endowment as well as from ASU, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and revenue from Piper Center programs. Funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Arizona State University supports the Distinguished Visiting Writers Series and employee salaries. This support is essential to bringing acclaimed writers and teachers to the valley for free community events. Dividends from the endowment are administered through the Arizona State University Foundation for scholarships, faculty enrichment, chair support and the international exchange program. Each year, the Piper Center awards numerous fellowships to graduate students in the Creative Writing program at ASU, and funds additional programming to enhance both the graduate and undergraduate Creative Writing programs. Registration fees from the Piper Writers Studio, the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference, and other Piper Center programs are used to support the center in providing additional programming to ASU and the community. Revenue generated from these programs supports the programs themselves as well as additional free community events.
The following consolidated financial statements present financial information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. More detailed financial reports are available upon request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carryforward</td>
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<td>Foundation Carryforward</td>
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<td>Program Revenue</td>
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<td>Continuing Education Revenue</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Revenue – Fees</td>
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<td><strong>Total Means of Financing</strong></td>
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<td>Personal Services</td>
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<td>ERE</td>
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<td>Risk Management</td>
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<td>Network Comm Charge</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>All Other Operating Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>Administrative Surcharge</td>
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<td>Graduate Research Assistant Tuition Remission</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Transfers Out</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses and Transfers Out</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$451,523.43</strong></td>
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**Events**

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<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 08/25      | **Summer Social Fundraiser**  
Changing Hands Phoenix, 300 W Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85013 |

Phoenix summers getting you down? Missing all the talks, classes, workshops, and readings? Swing back into the literary season with a casual community get-together at our Summer Social Fundraiser. While there will be a brief welcome from Piper Center Director and Arizona inaugural Poet Laureate Alberto Álvaro Ríos at 6:30 p.m., drop by any time to enjoy a beverage with fellow writers and readers, meet the Piper Center staff, and learn more about all of the exciting events we have planned for the upcoming year. There will also be a silent auction featuring editing sessions, signed books, and special literary surprises from visiting writers, Piper Writers Studio instructors, and Piper Center staff.

| 09/05      | **The University of Arizona Poetry Center Presents: Morgan Parker and Tommy Pico**  
Phoenix Art Museum, Singer Hall, 1625 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |

| 09/07      | **Carolina Ebeid: You Ask Me to Talk About the Interior**  
Changing Hands Phoenix, 300 W Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85013 |

You Ask Me to Talk About the Interior emerges out of the ontological shock and double-bind of there being a world (rather than nothing at all), and inhabiting this world that “depends on violence.” Still, Carolina Ebeid writes, “I have wanted / to make you something // beautiful.” Drawing on influences such as Roland Barthes’s notion of the punctum (the photographic detail that pierces the viewer) to the repertoire of circles and twirls—the veronicas—bullfighters make with the red cape to attract the bull, Ebeid explores a poetics that is at once intricate and intimate. The poems in this book move by way of metaphors and poetic turns that reveal and wound; they cover territories ranging from personal confession and diagnosis to political catastrophes such as war and exile. Witnessing again to the lyric as art of ethical reckoning, each poem in You Ask Me to Talk About the Interior is an ardent fathoming of our most interior selves, each poem in Ebeid’s long-awaited first collection is a momentary “allegory for the soul.” (Book description provided by Carolina Ebeid)

| 09/20      | **Motionpoems Season 8: Phoenix Premiere**  
FilmBar, 815 N 2nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |

FilmBar and the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at ASU proudly present Motionpoems Season 8: Dear Mr. President, a collection of short films based on poems. When so much of our public discourse is fraught with difficulty, these 12 films assert the basic humanity behind the issues with dignity, thoughtfulness, urgency, and grace, showing us the critical potential of what arts and culture can be. Season 8 features two indigenous films by ASU Professor and Poet Natalie Diaz, “Cranes, Mafiosos and a Polaroid Camera” and “American Arithmetic”. Other poets include Tiana Clark, Eve L. Ewing, Peter LaBerge, Robin Coste Lewis, Susannah Nevison, Danez Smith, Maggie Smith, Nomi Stone, and Lee Ann Roripaugh.
Appendices and Records | Author Talks, Readings, and Other Events

Start Date Event

10/03 The University of Arizona Poetry Center Presents: Charles Simic with Sara Sams
Phoenix Art Museum, Singer Hall, 1625 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

10/06 Meet Your Literary Community
Phoenix Public Market, Open Air Market, 721 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Presented in partnership with the Open Air Market at the Phoenix Public Market in 2018, Meet Your Literary Community brings together over 50 local authors, publishers, and other literary organizations from all across the Valley for a morning of all things literary, including book exchanges, local author readings, writing groups, zine workshops, poetry on demand, scavenger hunts, and more. Featured organizations include Bookmans, the Cartonera Collective of Cardboard House Press, Hayden’s Ferry Review, Lux Undergraduate Review, Normal Noise, Phoenix College Rising, Superstition Review, and Wasted Ink Zine Distro.

10/13 Ursula Vernon: Re-telling Fairy Tales for Fun and Profit
Burton Barr Central Library, Pulliam Auditorium, 1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

10/14 Readers Write
Tempe Public Library, Meeting Room A, 3500 S Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ 85282

Celebrate the new PBS series, The Great American Read, with Tempe Public Library and the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at ASU by participating in a creative writing workshop and open mic. Writers will be given prompts based on PBS’s list of America’s 100 most-loved books.

10/19 Elizabyth Hiscox: Writers within the Ivory Tower
Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281

Hiscox’s talk will include stories from the ivory-tower trenches and highlight some of the pitfalls and pleasures of being an artist/academic. From the MFA to the PhD to the search for the teaching gig, how do we remain true to our literary goals and rise to meet the rigors of the institution? Can we? Hiscox will share not only her experience in various creative writing roles (as editor, student, teacher, poet, event coordinator), but include those of others who’ve trod similar ground. A Q&A portion will follow.

10/26 Dan Beachy-Quick: Of Silence and Song
Changing Hands Phoenix, 300 W Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013

Midway through the journey of his life, Dan Beachy-Quick found himself without a path, unsure how to live well. Of Silence and Song follows him through the forest of his experience, on a classical search for meaning in the world and in his particular, quiet life. In essays, fragments, marginalia, images, travel writing, and poetry, Beachy-Quick traces relationships and the identities through which he sees the world. As father and husband. As teacher and student. As citizen and scholar. And as poet and reader, wondering at the potential and limits of literature, and guided by his studies in ancient Greek…Curious, earnest, and masterful, Of Silence and Song is an unforgettable exploration of the human soul. (Book description provided by Milkweed Editions)

11/02 Francisco Cantú: Psychogeography of the Borderlands (NonfictioNOW Keynote)
Orpheum Theatre, 203 W Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85003
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/03</td>
<td><strong>Gretel Ehrlich: Writing on Ice (NonfictionNOW Keynote)</strong></td>
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<td>Orpheum Theatre, 203 W Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85003</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/03</td>
<td><strong>Stephanie Elizondo Griest: Art Above Everything (NonfictionNOW Keynote)</strong></td>
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<td>Orpheum Theatre, 203 W Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85003</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td><strong>HOLD: The Making of an Artist's Book with Sally Ball and Jan Vičar</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Phoenix Art Museum, Library, 1625 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Join U.S. poet Sally Ball and Czech artist Jan Vičar for an exhibition of <strong>HOLD</strong>, a limited-edition, hand-sewn artist's book exploring the effects of climate change in both micro- and macroscopic ways. <strong>HOLD</strong> ranges over many topics: climate anxiety, corporate doublespeak, international migration, nuclear energy, and the counter-intuitive beauty of the world. While the prints and text have been exhibited in Austria, France, Germany, Spain, and Tokyo, this month marks the first time the book will be displayed as an assembled whole. In addition to an artist talk and readings from the text, guests will have the opportunity to interact directly with the completed book and purchase limited-edition prints. <strong>HOLD</strong> was supported by a Faculty Fellowship from the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing in 2016, with additional support from the Institute for Humanities Research at Arizona State University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td><strong>After the MFA: Dorothy Chan and Dana Diehl</strong></td>
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<td>Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td><strong>ASU MFA Stellar Alumni Reading Series: Dorothy Chan and Dana Diehl</strong></td>
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<td>Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td><strong>ASU Undergraduate Writers Showcase</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/01</td>
<td><strong>KJZZ Holiday StoryFest and Authors Showcase</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W Glenn Dr, Glendale, AZ 85301</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing is partnering with local radio station and NPR affiliate KJZZ on their Holiday StoryFest &amp; Authors Showcase. The event features storytellers, readings and talks from local authors, and activities for children. Attendees will also have the opportunity to interact with local authors and the Soundbite mobile recording studio.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/09</td>
<td><strong>Piper Writers Studio Showcase</strong></td>
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<td>Changing Hands Phoenix, 300 W Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Come see what the students and faculty of the Piper Writers Studio have been up to with short readings of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and more in our second annual Piper Writers Studio Showcase. Featuring Michele Feeney, Howard Gershkowitz, Heather Lynn Horvat, Yvette Johnson, Tiffany Meuret, Saretta Morgan, Amy Silverman, Beverly Smith-Dawson, Jeanette Swain Nicholas, and Rashaad Thomas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date</td>
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</table>
| 12/13      | **Phoestivus Book Giveaway and Exchange**  
Phoenix Public Market, Open Air Market, 721 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |
| 01/22      | **A Celebration of Bill Konigsberg**  
Old Main, Carson Ballroom, 400 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Department of English at Arizona State University as we celebrate the establishment of the Bill Konigsberg Award. In addition to a short address from Bill Konigsberg, the evening will feature comments from Alberto Ríos, Lizette Serrano, Steve Bickmore, Mark Letcher, Sybil Durand, and James Blasingame. Presented by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English (ALAN/NCTE), the Konigsberg Award celebrates an individual who “has acted in selfless advocacy for marginalized youth through the creation, teaching, funding or other form of promotion of young adult literature.” |
| 02/06      | **The University of Arizona Poetry Center Presents: Art for Justice with Nikky Finney**  
Phoenix Art Museum, Singer Hall, 1625 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |
|            | The University of Arizona Poetry Center is proud to present Nikky Finney, who will read from her work commissioned for the Poetry Center’s Art for Justice grant. After the reading, there will be a short Q&A and a book signing. The University of Arizona Poetry Center’s Art for Justice grant funds a three-year project that will commission new work from leading writers in conversation with the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States, with the goal of creating new awareness and empathy through presentation and publication. |
| 02/12      | **A Celebration of Natalie Diaz**  
Old Main, Carson Ballroom, 400 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Celebrate the legacy and work of ASU professor and poet Natalie Diaz on the occasion of her 2019 MacArthur fellowship with a poetry reading and conversation. A light reception will follow. Presented in partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of English. |
| 02/22      | **The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Literary Fair**  
Old Main, Front Lawn, 400 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Presented as a public extension of the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference in partnership with ASU Open Door, the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Literary Fair presents over 20 talks, readings, and performances of poetry, fiction, memoir, bilingualism, social issues, and more from authors, publishers, and other organizations all over the Southwest. Featured organizations include Red Hen Press, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, and more. |
| 02/23      | **De Las Islas: A Celebration of Cuba and Puerto Rico with Achy Obejas, Jennine Capó Crucet, and Nicole Sealey**  
Old Main, Carson Ballroom, 400 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
| 03/13      | **After the MFA: Iliana Rocha and Vedran Husic**  
Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University | Annual Report 2019

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| 03/14      | **ASU MFA Stellar Alumni Reading Series: Iliana Rocha and Vedran Husic**  
Memorial Union, Pima Auditorium, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
| 03/14      | **The Rest I Make Up with Michelle Memran**  
FilmBar, 815 N 2nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |
| 03/21      | **Gregory Pardlo: The Messenger is the Message: Voicecraft and the Personal Essay**  
Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
| 04/10      | **Cherríe Moraga: Native Country of the Heart**  
Memorial Union, Cochise Room, Arizona State University, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281 |

The ASU School of Film, Dance and Theatre and the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing are hosting a screening of Michelle Memran’s award-winning documentary feature debut, *The Rest I Make Up*. The film’s title is taken from a lyric by playwright Maria Irene Fornes. Fornes, who has been called the greatest and least known dramatist of our time, has written over 40 plays, won nine OBIE awards, and mentored thousands of playwrights across the globe. When she stops writing due to Alzheimer’s disease, a friendship with a young writer reignites her visionary creative spirit, triggering a film collaboration that picks up where the pen left off. *The Rest I Make Up* follows Fornes and her memories, weaving together footage of the present with archival from the past, all the while moving mentor and student toward an ever-deepening connection in the face of forgetting.

Gregory Pardlo is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Poet as Poet* and *The Armistice*. *The Messenger is the Message: Voicecraft and the Personal Essay* is a talk by Pardlo, where he discusses the importance of voice in personal essay writing. He explains how one can craft voice to create a social media presence on the page. Voice can conjure an entire world in a few phrases, images, or references. The question is how do we want to be represented on the page?

Cherríe Moraga is the celebrated editor of *This Bridge Called My Back*. In *Native Country of the Heart*, Moraga charts her own coming-of-age alongside her mother’s decline, and also tells the larger story of the Mexican American diaspora. *Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir* is, at its core, a mother-daughter story. The mother, Elvira, was hired out as a child, along with her siblings, by their own father to pick cotton in California’s Imperial Valley. The daughter, Cherrie Moraga, is a brilliant, pioneering, queer Latina feminist. The story of these two women, and of their people, is woven together in an intimate memoir of critical reflection and deep personal revelation... Poetically wrought and filled with insight into intergenerational trauma, *Native Country of the Heart* is a reckoning with white American history and a piercing love letter from a fearless daughter to the mother she will never lose. (Book description provided by Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Presented in partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
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| 04/12      | Vanessa Angélica Villarreal: **Beast Meridian**  
Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, 1738 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85006 |
|            | The Borderlands Poetry series and the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University present a community reading with *Beast Meridian* author Vanessa Angélica Villarreal. Narrated by a speaker in mourning marked as an at-risk juvenile, *Beast Meridian* follows a first-generation Mexican-American girl in crisis surviving the painful experiences of a racialized girlhood, cultural displacement, generational trauma, familial loss, economic struggle, and violence. In turn, this collection radically dreams and imagines a surreal state in which these damages may be recovered, and in which the fragmented self may be remembered and re-membered. (Book description provided by Noemi Press.) |
| 04/13      | **What Do You Want to Know? Navigating the World of Writing at the Wickenburg Literary Festival**  
Wickenburg Public Library, 164 E Apache St, Wickenburg, AZ 85390 |
|            | Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University at the Wickenburg Literary Festival on Saturday, April 13, 2019 in historic downtown Wickenburg. While the festival will feature programming from regional authors, poets, performers, and musicians, the Piper Center will be presenting an hour long session, "What Do You Want to Know?" surveying the personal, artistic, and professional field of creative writing and contemporary literature. |
| 04/17      | **The University of Arizona Poetry Center Presents: Naomi Shihab Nye**  
Phoenix Art Museum, Singer Hall, 1625 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |
| 04/18      | **Omar El Akkad: The Story of The American War**  
Memorial Union, Ventana Ballroom, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Join award-winning journalist and author Omar El Akkad for his talk, “The Story of The American War.” This lecture covers the writing and editing process, the story of how the book came to be published, and the wildly different reactions it has prompted inside and outside the United States. An audacious and powerful debut novel: a second American Civil War, a devastating plague, and one family caught deep in the middle—a story that asks what might happen if America were to turn its most devastating policies and deadly weapons upon itself. (Book description provided by Penguin Random House.) Presented in partnership with the Center for Science and the Imagination. |
| 04/22      | **Just Write Presents: Matt Bell**  
Memorial Union, Graham 226, ASU Tempe, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Join Just Write, an ASU club for students interested in creative writing, as they present an author talk with ASU Professor Matt Bell. |
| 04/25      | **Thousand Languages Student Mixer**  
Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
|            | Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing for the Thousand Languages student reception and mixer. Beyond meeting fellow students and staff, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the Thousand Languages Project’s new publishing internship program in literary translation. |
04/26  **Yi Shun Lai: Not a Self-Help Book**  
Changing Hands Tempe, 6428 South McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283

Join author Yi Shun Lai for a community reading from her novel, *Not a Self-Help Book: The Mis-adventures of Marty Wu*. Marty hopes to someday open a boutique costume shop, but it’s hard to keep focused on her dream. First comes a spectacular career meltdown that sends her ricocheting between the stress of New York and the warmth of supportive relatives in Taiwan. Then she faces one domestic drama after another, with a formidable mother who’s impossible to please, an annoyingly successful and well-adjusted brother, and surprising family secrets that pop up just when she doesn’t want to deal with them. Mining the comedic potential of the 1.5-generation American experience, *Not a Self-Help Book* is an insightful and witty portrait of a young woman scrambling to balance familial expectations and her own creative dreams. (Book description provided by Yi Shun Lai.)

05/01  **Piper Mentoring Program Celebration**  
Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281

Join the Piper Center mentoring program for an end-of-the-year celebration and reading. Students will read brief selections from their mixed-genre work.

05/05  **Abdi Nor Iftin: Call Me American**  
Changing Hands Phoenix, 300 W Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013

Abdi Nor Iftin first fell in love with America from afar. As a child, he learned English by listening to American pop and watching action films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. When U.S. marines landed in Mogadishu to take on the warlords, Abdi cheered the arrival of these Americans, who seemed as heroic as those of the movies. Sporting American clothes and dance moves, he became known around Mogadishu as Abdi American, but when the radical Islamist group al-Shabaab rose to power in 2006, it became dangerous to celebrate Western culture. Desperate to make a living, Abdi used his language skills to post secret dispatches, which found an audience of worldwide listeners. Eventually, though, Abdi was forced to flee to Kenya. In an amazing stroke of luck, Abdi won entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery, though his route to America did not come easily. Parts of his story were first heard on the BBC World Service and This American Life. Now a proud resident of Maine, on the path to citizenship, Abdi Nor Iftin’s dramatic, deeply stirring memoir is truly a story for our time: a vivid reminder of why America still beckons to those looking to make a better life. (Book description provided by Penguin Random House.) Presented in partnership with Snell and Wilmer.

05/09  **Día De Los Niños, Día De Los Libros**  
Memorial Union, Arizona Ballroom, 301 E Orange St, Tempe, AZ 85281

The Department of English presents the ninth annual Día De Los Niños / Día De Los Libros celebration of kids, language, and culture. Special guests include Tomás Stanton (emcee), E. Charlton-Trujillo, David Bowles, and Juana Martínez-Neal–winner of the 2018 Pura Belpré Award (keynotes), and YA authors Dusti Bowling, Amy Fellner Dominy, Abigail Johnson, Mary Lambert, Erin Lange, Tom Leveen, Jon Lewis, Bill Konigsberg, Amy Nichols, Kyle Grant Wilson, Henry Quintero, and Kyle Mitchell.
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| 05/09 | **A Celebration of Bojan Louis**  
Crescent Ballroom, Lounge, 308 N 2nd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003 |
| **Description:** Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Division for an informal social gathering and poetry reading with ASU professor, poet, and inaugural Virginia G. Piper Fellow-in-Residence Bojan Louis. Louis will be starting as an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona this Fall. Come say goodbye and wish him luck before he leaves! |
| 05/17 | **Todd Mitchell: The Last Panther**  
Changing Hands Tempe, 6428 South McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283 |
| **Description:** Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing for a community reading and book signing with young adult author Todd Mitchell. Mitchell’s latest book, *The Last Panther*, follows the adventures of Kiri, an eleven-year-old girl who lives in a post-climate disaster swamp with her scientist father and her pet rat, Snowflake. When Kiri helps her father capture the last known wild panther, her life in the swamp becomes threatened by poachers and collectors, and she embarks on a dangerous journey to save the panther and herself. Giant sea turtles, climate refugees, and mystical encounters with the Shadow that Hunts populate this fast-paced, heart-pounding tale. (Book description provided by Todd Mitchell.) |
| 06/01 | **KJZZ Arizona StoryFest and Authors Showcase**  
Mesa Convention Center, Building C, 201 N Center St, Mesa, AZ 85201 |
| **Description:** The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing is partnering with local radio station and NPR affiliate KJZZ for their Arizona StoryFest & Authors Showcase. The event features storytelling, readings, workshops, activities for children, and more. |
| 06/20 | **Ofelia Zepeda**  
Burton Barr Central Library, Pulliam Auditorium, 1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004 |
| **Description:** Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing and Burton Barr Central Library for a reading and talk with poet, linguist, and University of Arizona Regents Professor Ofelia Zepeda. |
| 06/22 | **#PhxLitServ Inaugural Meeting**  
Piper Writers House, 450 E Tyler Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281 |
| **Description:** Join the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing for the inaugural meeting of #PhxLitServ, a network for creative writing community organizers. At the meeting, community organizers, teachers, and other individuals providing creative writing programs and services to the local community will come together to meet each other, share goals, and collaboratively determine what #PhxLitServ should be.
Education Programs

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<th>Start Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>07/24</td>
<td>From Notes to Narrative: Building Stories from Our Daily Lives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warren Glynn</td>
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<td>We all have them, swirling around us each day. These ordinary</td>
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<td>components of our lives that litter our purses, desktops, wallets,</td>
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<td>drawers, and countertops. Consider all the shopping lists, brochures,</td>
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<td>memos, notes, spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations occupying your</td>
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<td>space—what if there was a way to gain inspiration for our fiction</td>
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<td>writing through these seemingly mundane documents? Let’s put these</td>
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<td>objects to creative use!</td>
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<td>In this workshop, we'll experiment with narrative, using the “forms”</td>
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<td>of everyday life as frames for stories that can convey real, human</td>
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<td>emotion and contain clear dramatic stakes. We’ll look at a few</td>
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<td>examples of published fiction that have adapted such forms and then</td>
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<td>try our hands at crafting our own stories. Bring your random notes</td>
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<td>from home (don't be afraid of the odd and interesting), your thoughts,</td>
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<td>and your desire to create.</td>
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<td>08/04</td>
<td>Experimental Games of Found Writing: A Workshop</td>
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<td>Justin Noga</td>
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<td>Our world is full of misheard conversations, misread labels,</td>
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<td>misspoken phrases, old postcards from unknown lovers, lists from</td>
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<td>angry children found on a jog—these are the hidden gems of the</td>
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<td>creative process. From found texts and influences, participants will</td>
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<td>be encouraged to write in collaboration and examination of these</td>
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<td>found items.</td>
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<td>In this generative workshop, we will discuss ways to tease setting,</td>
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<td>characters, themes, images, and other disparate parts of narrative</td>
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<td>craft. Then we’ll put our conversations to use through a variety of</td>
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<td>writing games, designed to inspire, create, and bring your ideas to</td>
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<td>the page. Be prepared to write in this fun and exploratory space!</td>
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<td>09/04</td>
<td>Writing from Dreams: A Multi-Genre Workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kelly Lydick</td>
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<td>Paul McCartney’s song “Yesterday,” Albert Einstein’s Theory of</td>
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<td>Relativity, and Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein are just a few creations</td>
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<td>that have come from dreams. But are the symbols of language and</td>
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<td>dreams arbitrary? Allegorical? Archetypal? How do dreams inform the</td>
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<td>creative process? This workshop looks deeply at the symbolism of</td>
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<td>dreams and the language of the subconscious, primarily from a Jungian</td>
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<td>perspective. Participants will share and discuss individual dreams</td>
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<td>and learn how to deconstruct these dreams to gain a deeper</td>
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<td>understanding of the structure of story that inherently lives</td>
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<td>within each of us. Within a safe workshop space, each writer will</td>
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<td>uncover the symbolism of their personal dream landscape and use this</td>
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<td>information to compose new, meaningful written work.</td>
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09/08  **Between Inventory & Invention: A List Poem Workshop**  
Carolina Ebeid

This workshop explores list-making as a way of bringing new poems into the world. We encounter lists every day, both sacred and mundane: to-do lists; top-ten lists; memorial lists of the dead; a list of names for colors. Following models of poems, older and contemporary, we will make our own list-poems with the use of generative prompts. These exercises will reveal how we put order to memory in that crossroads of inventory and invention. By finding creativity in the everyday, we spark our imaginations and inspirations to embark on an exploration of our own poetry and words. Bring your lists, your ideas, and your desire to write!

09/10  **In a Flash: An Exploration of Flash Fiction for Curious Readers and Working Writers**  
Patrick Michael Finn

Micro fiction. Flash fiction. Sudden fiction. The short-short story. While the form has many different names, styles, and approaches, what unifies them all is a dedication to saying something meaningful in a compact space. This course will explore many examples of short-short fiction in an effort to refine our own ability to see how small space is maximized for big expressive results.

09/15  **Where the Devil Is: The Craft of Specific Detail**  
Tara Ison

“Vivid detail is the life blood of fiction...in all major genres, the inner strategy is the same: the reader is regularly presented with proofs - in the form of closely observed details - that what is said to be happening is really happening.” — John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction*

Those “closely observed details” are what make our stories come alive, and engage the reader in both the external world we’re creating, and the inner-lives of our characters. In this workshop/discussion, we’ll discuss strategies for honing in on the illuminating the “telling detail,” and explore how the selection of realistic, concrete, and specific details can help us create verisimilitude, illustrate theme, establish narrative authority, develop an idiosyncratic voice, and avoid generic cliché.

10/02  **The Body Electric, Memoir-Style**  
Andrea Avery

In this course, participants will be invited to “sing the body electric” (thanks, Whitman) . . . in memoir. Through in-class exercises, discussions, and group workshop of manuscripts, each participant will attempt to locate his, her, their body’s story and history. Through our writing and mentor texts, we will trace how what we think, what we believe, and who we are has grown out of our embodied experiences. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson argue that reason “is not, in any way, a transcendent feature of the universe or of disembodied mind. Instead, it is shaped crucially by the peculiarities of our human bodies, by the remarkable details of the neural structure of our brains, and by the specifics of our everyday functioning in the world.” So, too, is memoir. All kinds of bodies welcome.
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10/04 | **The Big Picture: Writing Your First Screenplay**  
*Beverly Smith Dawson*

This course takes students on a journey through the necessary information, tools, and exercises for the beginning screenwriter to start the first draft of a feature-length screenplay. Over the course of four weeks, individuals will be involved in in-class writing assignments, discussions on screenplays verses other formats, and learning techniques such as the 3-Act Structure and 10 Plot Points, Character Analysis, World-Upside-Down Overview, and formatting. Participants will present their screenplay drafts for feedback from others and also give feedback to the other individuals in class. Come prepared to write, learn, and engage in this in-depth look at screenplay writing!

10/13 | **Free Class: Fairy Tales as Creative Springboard**  
*Ursula Vernon*

What can we learn from fairy tales as fiction writers? Whether it be strange characters, random plots, or startling twists, fairy tales burn interesting and memorable paths into our psyches. How do we weave these curious societal impressions into our current stories of today and make them work? Join renowned author and illustrator, Ursula Vernon (T. Kingfisher), as she discusses ways to spin some of the more absurd elements of fairy tales into workable modern narratives. Bring your most bridegrooms and tortoise brides for this three-hour workshop designed to get your creative juices flowing!

10/20 | **Performance Narrative: Literary Wordplay Breaks into Stageplay**  
*Walonda Williams*

Performance narrative is for every writer—those who may want to add new elements to one’s current writing style or those who are interested in writing performance pieces. Together, let us explore contemporary writers (Carla Harryman, Ron Allen, Amiri Baraka, Adrienne Kennedy, and Nova Baize) who have moved descriptive narrative into experimental performance. As a class, we will consider a social problem, and then in groups create a narrative work and add performance elements. In brief and playful revisions, text arrangement will indicate sound and pace dynamics. Two to three members of each group will perform the pieces. We will conclude with a group discussion to share how performance narrative can enhance one’s style of writing or be used to inspire a new work. Please, feel free to bring your laptop or tablet to make fast revisions, and if you feel more comfortable writing by hand, notebooks and pens are also welcome.

10/27 | **At Work in Sound and Vision: A Poetry Workshop**  
*Dan Beachy-Quick*

A poem contains multiple kinds of intelligence. Beneath the meanings of the words that make up a poem, other forms of meaning strive to be felt. This workshop will explore two of the most prominent of those alternate intelligences: musicality and image. Following the poet Louis Zukofsky’s sense, “Lower limit speech / Upper limit music,” we’ll seek ways, through readings and through in-class experiments, to re-awaken our ear to the musical intelligence undergirding language. Counterpart to the effort, we’ll also investigate the ways in which an image contains meaning so profound that some can be considered poems themselves. The large effort will be—through the investigation in sound and vision—for each participant to leave with a poem demonstrating the type of sonic curiosity and visual thinking our hours will be devoted to exploring.
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| 11/17      | **Poetry of the Body**  
Andrea Scarpino |
|            | Sappho, Whitman, Neruda, Lorde, Olds: poets have always written the body. Whether writing about sex and the sensuousness of the body, pregnancy and childbirth, the body wrought by illnesses like cancer, or the ways in which the body is shaped by social forces like racism and sexism, writing about our bodies can be an act of celebration, resistance, defiance, sadness—and so much more! This generative writing and discussion intensive workshop will focus on the different ways we can write about the body, and will include sample poems, writing prompts, and workshop. |
| 11/19      | **Natalie Diaz and [archi]TEXTS present Borderlands Poetry: A Conversation and Reading**  
Eduardo C. Corral |
|            | What are the physical and metaphysical conditions of borders and borderlands? How do borders span the imaginary, emotional, and physical landscapes of the human condition? Join a conversation and reading with poet and educator, Eduardo C. Corral, exploring the imaginative, bodily, societal, political, emotional, physical, and linguistic impacts of borders to us as human beings, our connections, and our artistic bodies of work. |
| 12/03      | **Unnatural Disasters: Writing Sci-Fi & Cli-Fi in a Changing World**  
Malik Toms |
|            | We sit on the edge of possibility. From Roddenberry’s sliding doors and tablet PCs to Atwood’s dystopian floods, our stories point the way to possible futures. This is a class about writing those futures. Participants will explore the basic elements of creating strong fiction and learn how to weave those elements into the extraordinary worlds we carve out of fringe science and the environmental issues shaping our tomorrows. Participants will engage with existing genre work ranging from Bacigalupi to Zelzany to learn the finer points of craft. Then participants will create new or revisit old works of fiction with an eye toward the future. |
| 01/11      | **Putting the “Creative” in Creative Nonfiction**  
Susan Devan Harness |
|            | You know how you can sit around in a group and there is always someone who can tell the wildest, funniest, or captivating stories? And you wonder how they do it, time and time again. In this workshop we’ll explore how to construct a written, rich narrative. It is all about the details. By the end of this workshop, class participants will be able to 1) create other characters which can aide, or impede your story, 2) create dialogue that is realistic and 3) use our five senses to bring these scenes to life.  
When you come to class, be prepared to work with at least three events or experiences for vignettes. We will do a lot of writing and reflection in this class, so come ready to sit, close your eyes, let your mind wander, then write down your vignettes. |
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| 01/12      | The Art of Interview: Asking the “Write” Questions in Writing Nonfiction  
Susan Devan Harness |

We talk to other people about their lives for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes we simply want to find out more about them, to find out what we have in common. Other times we are interested in their experience and use this information to understand what’s important to them, who they are and why they do what they do. We may go further and want to explore how they see their role in the world, what they are trying to accomplish. People are interesting and we find out just how interesting they are through their stories. But where do we start? It starts with having a constructed conversation. This workshop focuses on creating the questions that help us discover answers. We will do a lot of writing and interviewing in this class, so come ready to talk, learn things about someone you don’t know, and construct an article that is meaningful and interesting.

In this exploratory workshop, participants will learn how to think about all the ways someone's story is interesting, how to collect information about that person and their story, and how to determine the point, or points, that will make their story important to tell to others. We will work to produce an end product that will document someone’s life experience and what that experience has meant to them, and to convey it to a larger audience.

After this workshop, participants will be able to begin to feel comfortable talking with someone they don’t know, think about things that interest them about that person, and construct a list of questions that helps them dive deeper. We will then take that information and weave a narrative that could be used as a basis of a general interest article. Therefore, prior to the workshop class participants are asked to reflect on their lives and think about all the experiences they’ve had, their interests, their jobs, their passions, or defining events in their life.

| 01/22 | A Workshop in Poetry, Sound, and the Transformative Nature of Artistic Expression  
Rashaad Thomas |

How do we approach the concept of the aural in our poetry? How does the creative process become a collective of both writing and hearing our own art? This course is designed to develop your creativity and fluency in identifying, writing, and reading toward an attuned awareness of beats, tone, voice, and sounds that find their way to the page; we will also discuss how these same utterances transform when read aloud by poet or reading audience. You will be asked to delve into a series of workshops triggered by writing prompts and assignments, as well as peer critiques of work produced in the course. You will engage with each other exploring artistic expression, writing, and the revision process.

Through discussions and diving into each other’s poetry, you will reconsider what it means to achieve and transform perceptive and evocative works of art from the mind to the page. The hope being that this workshop will give you artistic time to create original literary works and share those works in a newly formed community of readers and writers. The course ultimately seeks to provide an understanding of the creative process as a means of discovery, exploration, and self-expression through human agency, language, and the power of sound.
02/02  **A Deeper Image: A Poetry Workshop**  
*Joshua Marie Wilkinson*

In this course, students are invited to develop an acute awareness of their senses in order to write more visceral, striking poems. We will discuss examples, contemporary and ancient, to initiate a practice that draws on figurative language, synesthesia, and the disavowed parts of self to plunge beneath the bland methods that tend to preempt or deplete many poems of our era. Our watchwords will be conflict, obstacle, desire, and contradiction that we may hone a fuller relationship with language that eschews the topical, the merely competent, and which instead dislodges a poem more knowing, uncanny, and authentic to the poet. You will be asked to consider your dreams, fears, wishes, conflicts, desires, and paradoxes. Therein lie the worlds that only unforgettable art grasps.

02/21  **How to Survive Your Novel**  
*Ramona Ausubel*

Starting a novel is hard. Finishing a novel seems nearly impossible. And the middle, well, the middle is a thousand years long. But! But! There are things you can do to turn walls into doorways and keep you moving forward. Join award-winning novelist, Ramona Ausubel, in a course on discussing strategies for survival in writing your novel and for keeping the process fun, inventive, and full of life. This workshop consists of both moments of lecture and exercises, so be prepared to learn, talk, engage, and put your thoughts and ideas on the page!

02/21  **Writing Away from a Good/Evil Binary**  
*Hanif Abdurraqib*

We too often rely on a “good/bad” binary to shape our characters and considerations in our stories. How do our complexities as human beings find their way to the page? In this generative workshop, join poet, essayist, and cultural critic, Hanif Abdurraqib, on an exploration on empathy and the dynamics of character in popular culture. The group will use an empathy tree in which participants figure out which characters in popular culture they find empathetic or non-empathetic. Writers will be asked to write a series of short poems that place them in conversation with a figure they have no feelings toward. Over the course of the workshop, the speaker and the figure become closer and closer through the work of looking at each other through a different and more creative lens.

02/21  **Writing Down the Demons**  
*Deborah Miranda*

How do we summon creative power in the face of our personal and/or global demons? How can we speak of beauty when our world seems full of loss, grief, climate change, and political turmoil? Thich Nhat Hanh says that the work of meditation is to transform “compost into flowers”; that is also the work of poetry. This generative workshop will help you to re-see your demons as a form of poetic compost. Writing poetry is a way for us to name, explore and re-shape our demons and use them to grow something beautiful, powerful, and healing. Through in-class writing exercises, reading and discussing sample poems, as well as the plain old blood, sweat and tears of revision, this workshop is structured to inspire as well as provide you with new tools to continue the work on your own afterwards. Please bring your favorite writing materials.
### Start Date | Event
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02/21 | **Multiplying Language: The Art of Codeswitching and Bilingualism in Creative Writing**
 | Achy Obejas

How do you approach creative writing in a multilingual landscape? Join critically acclaimed author, translator, and educator, Achy Obejas, to explore how authors use codeswitching, bilingualism and multiple languages in the same text to highlight culture and the necessity of home languages, and to demonstrate new creative paths for their writing. When and how do we codeswitch? To what end do we use codeswitching in our art? What does it mean for our single language readers when these techniques are employed? Does an author have any responsibility to language and how can we approach this to heighten creativity and the work of art? In this exploratory and generative workshop, you will be asked to consider your home language and your relationship to it, and write and respond to various prompts targeted toward thought and exploration of another language in your writing.

02/22 | **The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference**

Featuring over 50 craft talks, workshops, and panels from more than 25 authors, editors, and other creative professionals, the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference offers a unique and intimate creative writing experience that meets people wherever they are, creating a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment where writers learn from each other as they work toward their goals. Beyond the regular schedule, attendees can register for advanced workshops, listen to talks and readings at the literary fair, attend off-site events, and more. This year’s keynote is Carmen Giménez Smith. Other faculty include Hanif Abdurraqib, Ramona Ausubel, Nicole Sealey, TC Tolbert, and more.

03/09 | **Free Teen Intensive: Memorizing Ourselves—The Poems of Our Memories**
Raquel Denis

The course is designed for youth (ages 14-18) beginning to write poetry for the first time, or who have been introduced to poetry and want to learn more. Students will participate in a two-week course of three-hour workshops. Over the course of the two weeks, students will learn about key elements of poetry and various poetic techniques, read various poets and their writings, and discuss the crucial role of memory in writing their own poems. Students will have opportunities to write their own poems, workshop them, and share them at the end of the course term. The class is open to bilingual writers in Spanish. The class will conclude with a public reading of their work in front of their peers, family, friends, and guests.

03/20 | **Building Compelling Scenes**
Blair Hurley

The most powerful short stories and novels are built on a foundation of great scenes. Scenes convey the fears and desires of characters in tense, funny, wonderful real-time action—so why are they so difficult to write? In this class, we’ll explore the 3 P’s of great scenes (person, place, and problem) and discuss how to get in and out of a scene efficiently. We’ll discuss the differences between scenes, exposition, and “habitual time”, and why putting emotional moments in scenes can provide poignant experiences. This will be a fiction discussion and workshop in which students will work in class on how to construct their stories more effectively. We’ll examine classic scenes from short stories and novel excerpts, including work from Denis Johnson, ZZ Packer, Graham Greene, Joshua Ferris, and others.
04/06  True Story: Using Journalism Basics to Report Memoir  
Amy Silverman

In this True Story workshop, participants will learn and apply basic journalism skills to their creative non-fiction, particularly memoir. Students will begin by brainstorming ideas for their own true stories. The class will be interactive, as students share ideas and get feedback from the instructor and classmates. Through exercises and workshopping, participants will hone interviewing skills, moving on to writing dialogue. The class will then cover how to access very basic public records (lawsuits, police records), search media reports, and come up with other sourcing ideas based on participants' questions. Finally, we will spend a few minutes setting personal writing goals and discussing publication options.

04/08  Advanced Fiction Workshop  
James Sallis

The Piper Writers Studio hosts novelist and fiction writer James Sallis for an eight-week advanced fiction workshop for individuals who are actively working on a fiction project, are looking to publish, or have already published work. During this course, students will receive:

- close readings of their work from the instructor,
- line edits from their work from the instructor,
- intensive workshopping with other students,
- focused group discussions on the relevant work and tangents that emerge in class,
- and readings from work by various writers across the literary spectrum to inspire, guide, and fuel each individual's work and discussions.

Space in this course is extremely limited. Be ready to read, comment, and engage with both the instructor and the rest of the group in this intensive workshop designed to prepare your work for the next steps toward content generation, revision, and publication.

04/20  Seven Ways to Disrupt Your Poetry  
Terese Svoboda

Re-lineate, incorporate, untranslate, narrate, collaborate, investigate, and capsize your ailing poem. Participants will look at the work of Brenda Hillman, Sean Singer, Latasha Nevada Diggs, Tusiata Avia, Maureen Seaton/Neil de la Floor/Kristine Snodgrass, Jayy Dodd to illustrate charged ways to reinvigorate stale or unformed material. Please bring a poem that needs resurrection and be prepared to celebrate at its innate genius—and play.

04/27  From Query Letter to Publication: Navigating the Publishing Eco-system  
Yi Shun Lai

Publishing is a big world, with a lot of intricate moving people—not parts—to talk to and get to know. Before you can navigate it, you need to know the basics: What function each person has on your road to publication. What role you play, and what roles you are expected to play. In this lecture and workshop, we'll cover the various publishing models (self-publishing, small or indie press publishing, and Big Five publishing) and how each of them works. We'll also work on query letters and cover letters, and craft some working models for you to draw on when you go to write your own.
05/01  **Online Class: Revising Your Novel**  
Corey Ann Haydu

Through video lectures, activities, discussions, video conferences, peer reviews, and direct feedback from your instructor, you will learn new tools and methods for tackling a deep and intensive revision, gain knowledge on how to work with edit letters from publishing professionals, leave this course with revised pages from your own novel, and create a solid plan for moving forward to complete a full revision.

05/01  **Online Class: Publishing Opportunities for Fiction and Nonfiction Writers**  
Beth Staples

The goal of this course is to give you a basic understanding of the publishing industry: how it is structured, how to navigate it, and how to make the best choices for your writing life and the life of your books. You are a writer, an artist—the most important thing you can do is focus on your work. But when the time comes to bring your writing to an audience, a host of other skills and knowledge come into play. While it’s true that the publishing world exists to support and promote art, it is also a business; agents, editors, and publishers must be mindful of the market and of money. Understanding these concerns and the decisions related to them, and positioning yourself and your book for the appropriate publisher and market, will make your navigation of the process more successful, and more pleasant. This class will give you the basics, and ask you to do the work of thinking about your book from the perspective of an agent, editor, and publisher.

Through video lectures, activities, discussions, video conferences, and direct feedback from your instructor and from other students in the course, you will learn an overview of the publishing process, the importance of market research, how to create a book jacket, how to draft an agent list, query letters and other professional correspondence, basics of contracts and royalties, self-publishing as an option, the editing process, book design basics, and end the course with a research project.

05/18  **Wild Transformations: Vital Secrets for Creating Compelling Narratives**  
Todd Mitchell

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore effective techniques for increasing conflict, revealing characters, and writing stories that readers (and editors) won’t be able to put down. Topics will include:

- Spotting the difference between a story and a situation
- Developing sticky stories and elemental plots
- Creating effective hooks and discovering ways to begin *in media res*
- The three most important things to know about your characters
- Pulling plot from character and using plot to reveal character
- Increasing conflict, and manifesting internal conflict through external events
- Visualizing character arcs
- Pushing characters to the end of the line to earn the transformation

Tip sheets and worksheets will be included so you can immediately apply concepts and get feedback during the session. By the end, participants will have a greater understanding of how to structure narratives to engage readers while using plot to explore and reveal characters.
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| 06/01      | **Free Class: Fictioneering the Non-Fictiony: Experimental Writing Games to Bend Lived Experiences into Fiction**  
Justin Noga |
|            | Your falling-out with a best friend from childhood. Your family’s buffoonery in a public setting. Your perceptions of sex last year, ten years back, twenty years back. These are all gems of our lives that, with a little snip or suture, can become springboards for fictions with real resonance. In this generative short workshop, we will use a series of experimental and collaborative writing games to mine out moments from our own lives—half-remembered or not—which we will bend and stretch and snap and reshape into fictions wholly their own. By allowing ourselves to shift these realities, we can harness the emotional energies of those old memories, and breathe new life into them. |
| 06/15      | **We Cannot Look Away: Exploring a Social Conscience Through Writing**  
Stella Pope Duarte |
|            | When confronting a tragedy, we might ask ourselves several questions: What is going on over there? How can this be happening? Why doesn’t someone do something? These are questions often asked by writers who look at society with an eye for tackling tough issues and standing up for what is right. In this course, writers will explore society’s dark side. Pope Duarte will guide students through techniques for research, interviewing, and getting to the heart of a story, as these skills will be an open door for creating heart-warming, healing works that make a difference for generations to come, offering hope in the midst of despair. Participants will consider books that explore the human experience and deliver it with precision and power, often remaining a part of our global memory—forever. |
| 06/18      | **Free Class: Writing Toward the Boundaries of Grief and God**  
Erin Noehre |
|            | In this generative workshop will explore the ways poets have used the epistolary form to scatter grief to the heavens to relieve the pressure of pain that may have grown anger, resentment, and bitterness within us. The “god” here is not a religious god, but instead any figure, creature, or higher power we feel is a possible arch to throw our bereavement over. In this two-part workshop, we’ll discuss a few poems that use this form and examine how they use language to connect our bodies to grief. Then we will do some generative exercises and meet again to discuss how the process went for us and read each other’s work to provide feedback. |
Hanif Abdurraqib | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His first collection of poems *The Crown Ain’t Worth Much* was released by Button Poetry in 2016, and was nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. His first collection of essays, *They Can’t Kill Us Until They Kill Us* was released to critical acclaim in November 2017 by Two Dollar Radio. His next projects are *Go Ahead In The Rain*, a book on A Tribe Called Quest due out in 2019 by University of Texas Press, and *They Don’t Dance No Mo’,* due out from Random House in 2020.

Ramona Ausubel | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Ramona Ausubel is the author of two novels—*Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty* and *No One is Here Except All of Us*—as well as two collections of short stories—*Awayland* and *A Guide to Being Born.* She is the winner of the PEN/USA Fiction Award, the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award and was a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Award. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker, The New York Times, Tin House, One Story* and elsewhere. She lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband and two children.

Jabari Jawan Allen | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Jabari Jawan Allen is a Chicago, IL native. A 2018 Tin House Winter Workshop Scholar and 2018 Lucille Clifton Memorial Scholar, Allen has received fellowships from *Tin House, Community of Writers, Kenyon Review Writers Workshop,* and VONA. Allen’s poems either appear or are forthcoming in *Virginia Quarterly Review, Vinyl, Four Chambers,* and elsewhere. Allen currently lives in Phoenix, AZ.

[archi]TEXTS | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

[archi]TEXTS is a program founded by ASU professor and poet Natalie Diaz to foster collaborations between people who embrace poetry, literature, and story.

María Luisa Arroyo | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

María Luisa Arroyo was educated at Colby (BA), Tufts (MA) & Harvard (ABD) in German, her third language. She earned her MFA in poetry from the Solstice MFA program at Pine Manor College. In recognition of her community-based poetry workshops & readings, Arroyo received many awards including Poet Laureate (2014-2016) of Springfield (MA) & 2016 NEPR Arts & Humanities Award. Her publications include *Gathering Words: Recogiendo Palabras* (2008) & the chapbook, *Destierro Means More than Exile* (2018). She is Assistant Professor of Writing & First-Year Studies at Bay Path University.
Mark Athitakis | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Moderator

Mark Athitakis is a journalist and critic whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Humanities Magazine*, and numerous other publications. His 2017 book, *The New Midwest* (Belt Publishing), is a critical study of contemporary fiction set in the region, and he has been a featured speaker on the subject for BBC Radio, the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, and other venues. A member of the board of the National Book Critics Circle, he lives in Chandler.

Andrea Avery | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Andrea Avery is the author of *Sonata: A Memoir of Pain and the Piano*, which describes her experiences growing up as an aspiring pianist even after a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis at age 12. Her writing has been published in *Ploughshares*, *Real Simple*, *The Oxford American*, and *The Politics of Women’s Bodies: Sexuality, Appearance, and Behavior*. She was the winner of *Real Simple*’s 2010 essay contest and a finalist in *Glamour* magazine’s essay contest. She holds a BA in music, an MFA in Creative Writing, and a doctorate in education from Arizona State University. She teaches English at Phoenix Country Day School and is an active volunteer with the Arthritis Foundation.

Atlasta Catering | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Sponsor

With Steve and Kristine Short at the helm, Atlasta has evolved to become one of Arizona’s premiere catering companies. We have remained family owned and operated since first opening our doors over 30 years ago. Through the years, we have created a mindful, customized dining experience that honors farm-to-table cuisine.

Our award-winning chef, Steve Short, was motivated to reinvent the way the event industry operates and to execute events through the lens of sustainability all while maintaining the integrity of the special event business.

Leah Bailly | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Leah Bailly is a writer from Canada who currently splits time between Vancouver and Los Angeles. Her work has received support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Yaddo, Breadloaf, the Banff Centre and elsewhere. Bailly is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Southern California where she is the Wallis Annenberg Fellow in fiction.

Sally Ball | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty; Local Writer

**Barrett, The Honors College | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor**

Established in 1988, Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University is a selective four-year residential college offering special honors courses, study abroad, research opportunities, and merit scholarships to academically outstanding undergraduates at all four ASU campuses. In 2015, The New York Times called Barrett “the gold standard” among honors colleges in the nation. In 2005, Readers' Digest named Barrett “Best Honors College” in the nation. USA Today named ASU one of the 100 Best Value Colleges for 2010 and specifically cited Barrett as a factor in the recognition, identifying the honors college as “outstanding.”

Barrett students benefit from the vast resources and opportunities at ASU, the nation’s largest Research I institution in the fifth largest metropolitan area in the United States with more than 70,000 students studying in over 277 fields of academic inquiry.

Now in its 30th year, Barrett has more than 7,000 students living and learning at ASU’s Tempe, Downtown, Polytechnic and West campuses. More information at https://barretthonors.asu.edu/

**Dan Beachy-Quick | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Writer**

Dan Beachy-Quick is the author, most recently, of a collection of essays, fragments, and poems, *Of Silence & Song* (Milkweed, 2017). He has written six books of poetry, including *Circle’s Apprentice, North True South Bright, Spell, Mulberry, and This Nest, Swift Passerine*, six chapbooks, a book of interlinked essays on *Moby Dick, A Whaler’s Dictionary*, as well as a collection of essays, meditations and tales, *Wonderful Investigations*. Reddy and Beachy-Quick’s collaboration has recently been released as a full-length collection, *Conversi-
ties*, and he has also collaborated with the essayist and performance artist Matthew Goulish on *Work From Memory*. In 2013, University of Iowa Press published a monograph on John Keats in their Muse Series (editor Robert D. Richardson) titled *A Brighter Word Than Bright: Keats at Work*, and Coffee House Press published his first novel, *An Impenetrable Screen of Purest Sky*. He is a contributing editor for the journals *A Public Space* and *West Branch*. After graduating from the University of Denver, he attended the Iowa Writer’s Workshop. He has taught at Grinnell College, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is currently teaching in the MFA Writing Program at Colorado State University. His work has been a winner of the Colorado Book Award, and has been a finalist for the William Carlos Williams Prize, and the PEN/USA Literary Award in Poetry. He is the recipient of a Lannan Foundation residency, and taught as Visiting Faculty at the Iowa Writer’s Workshop in spring 2010. He was one of two Monfort Professors at CSU for 2013-2015, and his work has been supported by the Guggenheim Fellow and by a Creative Fellow of the Woodberry Poetry Room at Harvard University.

**Matt Bell | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty**

Matt Bell is the author of the novels *Scrapper* and *In the House upon the Dirt between the Lake and the Woods*, as well as the short story collection *A Tree or a Person or a Wall*, a non-fiction book about the classic video game Baldur’s Gate II, and several other titles. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Tin House*, *Conjunctions*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and many other publications. A native of Michigan, he teaches in the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University.
Katie Berta | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Moderator

Katie Berta is the Supervising Editor of Hayden’s Ferry Review. She graduated from the MFA program at Arizona State University in 2011 and from the Creative Writing PhD at Ohio University in 2017. She’s served as a Visiting Assistant Professor and Post-Doctoral Fellow at Ohio University, as the Assistant Editor of New Ohio Review, and as an Associate Editor of Hayden’s Ferry Review. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in The Kenyon Review Online, Blackbird, Sixth Finch, Salt Hill, Washington Square Review, Indiana Review, The Laurel Review, The Louisville Review, Bayou, and Forklift, Ohio, among other journals, and in Welcome to the Neighborhood: An Anthology of American Coexistence. You can find her book reviews on the Ploughshares blog. She has presented her scholarly work at the 2018 American Literature Association conference, and in Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal and the Emily Dickinson International Society Bulletin. She has received support for her poetry from the Vermont Studio Center and from the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, and her manuscript, Spell for the Daughter, was a finalist for the Colorado Prize for Poetry and the 42 Miles Press Poetry Award.

Books of Kell’s Press | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Books of Kell’s Press is an independent fine press publisher founded by artist and poet Kelly M. Houle that promotes poetry and literature through the creation of handmade books. Titles include miniature books, such as the award-winning Poem of the Gifts by Jorge Luis Borges, Love is Enough, a hand-bound facsimile of the full play written by William Morris with the original illustrations by Edward Burne-Jones. Our newest release, Selected Poems by Abramek Koplowicz, is a fully-illustrated letterpress printed edition and the first print publication of the English translations by Malgorzata Koraszewska and Sarah Lawson.

Susanne Brent | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Born and raised in Chicago, Susanne Brent moved to Colorado after high school and practiced being a hippie before earning a journalism degree from Metropolitan State University in Denver. She then moved to the small desert town of Coolidge, Arizona, to work on a weekly newspaper. Missing the big city lights, Brent moved to Phoenix where she wrote on a freelance basis for a variety of publications including The Arizona Republic. She recently had a short story “Hunger Pains” in the online journal HCE Review from Dublin, Ireland which makes her feel very European. Brent has been meeting in a Writer’s Inspiration Group for the past thirteen years and hopes to encourage others to write freely, without worry of critique. She also writes a blog and can be found at https://thatsnotmytable.wordpress.com/.

Francisco Cantú | Visiting Writer; NonfictionNOW Keynote

Francisco Cantú is a writer, translator, educator, and the author of The Line Becomes a River. From 2008 to 2012 he served as an agent for the United States Border Patrol in the deserts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. A former Fulbright fellow, he is also the recipient of a 2017 Whiting Award. His essays and translations have been featured on This American Life and in Best American Essays, Harper’s, Guernica, Orion, n+1 and Ploughshares. He lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Jennine Capó Crucet | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Jennine Capó Crucet is a novelist, essayist, and a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times. Her novel Make Your Home Among Strangers was the winner of the International Latino Book Award, a New York Times Editor’s Choice book, and was
cited as a best book of the year by NBC Latino, the Guardian, and the Miami Herald. She is also the author of the story collection How to Leave Hialeah (winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Prize and the John Gardner Book award), and of a forthcoming essay collection, Never Imagined Me Here. Her writing has been awarded an O. Henry Prize and Picador Fellowship, among other honors, and her work has appeared in venues including Medium, the Los Angeles Review, Guernica, the Virginia Quarterly Review, and on PBSNewsHour. Raised in Miami, she’s currently an associate professor of Creative Writing and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska.

Elizabeth Charles | Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter; Piper Student Mentor

Elizabeth Charles writes fiction and teaches undergraduate composition and creative writing at Arizona State University, where she is currently pursuing an MFA. She is a recipient of the 2017 Virginia G. Piper Global Residency Fellowship and 2018 Virginia G. Piper Global Teaching Fellowship in Singapore. Her work has appeared most recently in Bird’s Thumb and is forthcoming in Fiction Southeast.

Kirstin Chen | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Kirstin Chen’s new novel, Bury What We Cannot Take (Little A, March 2018), has been named a Most Anticipated Upcoming Book by Electric Literature, The Millions, The Rumpus, Harper’s Bazaar, and InStyle, among others. She is also the author of Soy Sauce for Beginners. She was the fall 2017 NTU-NAC National Writer in Residence in Singapore, and has received awards from the Steinbeck Fellows Program, Sewanee, Hedgebrook, and the Napa Valley Writers’ Conference. Born and raised in Singapore, she currently resides in San Francisco.

Briyana D. Clarel | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Briyana D. Clarel is a young, gifted, and black queer writer, performer, and educator dedicated to making the arts, education, and healing accessible to all. Clarel is the founder and director of The Starfruit Project, an initiative bringing creativity for radical healing and brilliant growth to communities of color. They are currently the Creative Nonfiction Editor for Homology Lit, a co-moderator for the Philadelphia Dramatists Center’s Playwrights’ Happy Hour, and a member of Ring of Keys. Clarel’s writing is published in Love, Always: Partners of Trans People on Intimacy, Challenge & Resilience and After Ferguson, In Solidarity. Their solo show unboxed: a healing debuted at the 2018 OUTsider Festival and they directed Rage to Heal, a piece devised by
a black cast exploring rage toward healing, as part of the 2017 Cohen New Works Festival. They are a 2016 recipient of the Acts of Greatness LGBTQ Youth Community Award and a 2018 ASTEP Artist as Citizen Fellow. Clarel has facilitated workshops on leadership, theatre, and justice to learners of all ages in the US and South Africa. Clarel holds a BA in Sociology from Princeton University. Born and raised in South Jersey, they are passionate about musical theatre, mangoes, and memoirs.

**Mike Conklin | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow**

Mike Conklin is a career journalist, whose feature, news, and daily column writing was familiar to *Chicago Tribune* readers for three-plus decades. His assignments were local, national, and international, often appearing in Tribune Syndication distributed to over 300 newspapers. Other work appeared in the *New York Times, Encyclopedia of Chicago, Encyclopedia of American Journalism, History Magazine*, textbooks, and a variety of other publications. Conklin left *The Tribune* to join the full-time faculty at DePaul University, where he taught, served as student newspaper advisor, and helped found the school’s Journalism Department. He also taught communication at Xiamen University in China and writing as an adjunct at Cornell College (Ia.), Lake Forest College (Ill.), and University of Illinois-Chicago. Other projects have included editing, writing, and contributing to five nonfiction books, publishing two fiction novels, and peer reviewing for Northwestern University Press. Currently he is working on a nonfiction Dust Bowl novel. Conklin lives in Arizona in the winter, where he teaches writing and consults as a volunteer in the Scottsdale Public Library and Phoenix Public School systems.

**Eduardo C. Corral | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Writer**

Eduardo C. Corral is the author of *Slow Lightning*, which won the 2011 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. His second book, *Guillotine*, will be published by Graywolf Press in 2020. He’s the recipient of Whiting Writers’ Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Holmes National Poetry Prize and the Hodder Fellowship, both from Princeton University. He teaches in the MFA program at North Carolina State University.
Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

The MFA in Creative Writing at ASU has always been an unswervingly student-first program. Through small classes, intimate workshops, and one-to-one mentoring, the centuries-old apprenticeship model thrives within the New American University.

Poets and fiction writers work with an outstanding faculty—T.M. McNally, Tara Ison, Matt Bell, Jennifer Irish, Alberto Rios, Norman Dubie, Natalie Diaz, and Sally Ball—that has published more than 80 books and has garnered national and international attention through awards that include: National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Pulitzer Prize, the International Griffin Poetry Prize, the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, and two Medals of Achievement from the National Society of Arts and Letters.

The program’s alumni are equally impressive, having won the Iowa Short Fiction Award, the Pen Southwest Book Award, the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, the May Swenson Poetry Award, the Hurston/Wright Foundation Legacy Award, and numerous Pushcart Prizes. They are the recipients of grants from the NEA and Fulbright and Stegner Fellowships.

To learn more, visit our website at https://english.clas.asu.edu/about/academic-program-areas/creative-writing.

Piper J. Daniels | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Moderator

Piper J. Daniels is a Michigan native and queer intersectional feminist currently living in the American Southwest. Her debut essay collection, Ladies Lazarus, won the Tarpaulin Sky Book Award, was longlisted for the PEN Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award For the Art of the Essay, and is currently a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in LGBTQ Nonfiction.

Jonathan Danielson | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Moderator

Jonathan Danielson is an Instructor at Arizona State University where he teaches composition and creative writing. He is a Writer-at-Large (“Desert Correspondent”) for Feathertale Review, and his work is forthcoming in Gulf Coast, and has appeared in Juked, Superstition Review, Gravel, Able Muse, The Saturday Evening Post, and elsewhere. His story “Borders” was the recipient of the 2016 Editor’s Prize from Switchback. Along with his full-time teaching duties at ASU, Jonathan is pursuing a doctorate in English literature with a creative emphasis. He received his MFA from University of San Francisco.

Yohanca Delgado | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Yohanca Delgado is a third-year MFA candidate in prose at American University in Washington, DC, where she also teaches undergraduate writing. She is a nonfiction reader for Folio Magazine and an assistant fiction editor for Barrelhose. Yohanca is a graduate of Voices of Our Nations and Tin House and has received fellowships from the Indiana Review Writers Workshop and NY State Summer Writers Institute. She was a 2018 Peter Taylor Fellow at the Kenyon Review Writers’ Workshop.

Raquel Denis | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Raquel Denis is a poet, teaching artist, and musician from Phoenix, Arizona. She received her undergraduate degree from ASU in the English Literature Creative Writing program where she studied Poetry. She worked for Childsplay Theater, and currently volunteers with Cardboard House Press. Denis is currently applying to graduate school for an MFA in Poetry and hopes to gain the tools necessary to practice a lifestyle of writing.
Natasha Deón | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Natasha Deón is an NAACP Image Award Nominee and author of the critically-acclaimed novel, *Grace* (Counterpoint Press), which was named a best book of 2016 by the *New York Times*, *The Root*, *Kirkus Review*, *Book Riot*, and *Entropy Magazine*, and has been featured in *People Magazine*, *TIME Magazine*, and *Red Book*. *Grace* won the 2017 American Library Association, Black Caucus Award for Best Debut Fiction. Deón is the 2018-2019 L.A. Times Book Award Prize judge for fiction and debut fiction and is creative writing professor for UCLA and has been a law professor for Trinity Law School. A practicing attorney, mother, and wife to an extraordinary man, Deón served as a 2017 U.S. Delegate to Armenia in partnership with the University of Iowa. She is the founder and co-host of Drunk Girls Bible Study podcast.

Kelly deVos | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Kelly deVos is from Gilbert, Arizona, where she lives with her high school sweetheart husband, amazing teen daughter and superhero dog, Cocoa. She holds a BA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University. When not reading or writing, deVos can typically be found with a mocha in hand, bingeing the latest TV shows and adding to her ever-growing sticker collection. deVos is represented by Kathleen Rushall of the Andrea Brown Literary Agency and her work on body positivity has been featured in the *New York Times* as well as on *Vulture*, *Salon*, *Bustle*, and *SheKnows*. Her debut novel, *Fat Girl on a Plane*, named one of the “50 Best Summer Reads of All Time” by *Reader’s Digest* magazine, is available now from HarperCollins. Her second book, *Day Zero*, is coming in 2019 from Inkyard Press/HarperCollins.

Natalie Diaz | Local Writer

Natalie Diaz was born and raised in the Fort Mojave Indian Village in Needles, California, on the banks of the Colorado River. She is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Tribe. Her first poetry collection, *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, was published by Copper Canyon Press in 2012. She is a 2018 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, a Lannan Literary Fellow, and a Native Arts Council Foundation Artist Fellow. She was awarded a Bread Loaf Fellowship, the Holmes National Poetry Prize, a Hodder Fellowship, and a PEN/Civitella Ranieri Foundation Residency, as well as being awarded a US Artists Ford Fellowship. Diaz teaches at the Arizona State University Creative Writing MFA program.

Dana Diehl | Visiting Writer, ASU MFA Alumnae Reader

Dana Diehl is the author of *Our Dreams Might Align* (Splice UK, 2018) and *TV Girls* (New Delta Review, 2018). Her collaborative short story collection, *The Classroom*, is forthcoming from Gold Wake Press in early 2019. She earned her MFA in Fiction at Arizona State University and her BA in Creative Writing at the Susquehanna University Writers Institute. She has been an artist in residence at the Sundress Academy for the Arts, Signal Fire, and the Rutgers Camden Summer Writers’ Conference. She lives and works in Tucson.

Carolina Ebeid | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Writer

Carolina Ebeid’s work appears widely in journals such as *The Kenyon Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *jubilat*, *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Poetry*, and others. She holds an MFA from the Michener Center for Writers, and has won awards and fellowships from the Stadler Center for Poetry, CantoMundo, The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and the Academy of American Poets. She was awarded an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry for 2015. She is a PhD candidate in the University of Denver’s creative writing program, where she serves as Associate Editor of the *Denver Quarterly*. Her first book, *You
Ask Me To Talk About The Interior, was published by Noemi Press in 2016 as part of their Akrilica series. Poets & Writers Magazine selected You Ask Me To Talk About The Interior as one of the ten best debut collections in 2016. She is currently at work on a book project entitled Hide. Carolina grew up in West New York, NJ, and now lives in Denver. Her fellow travelers include the poet Jeffrey Pethybridge and their son Patrick; together they edit Visible Binary.

Gretel Ehrlich | Visiting Writer, NonfictioNOW Keynote

Gretel Ehrlich is the author of 15 books of nonfiction, fiction, and poetry—including The Solace of Open Spaces, Heart Mountain, This Cold Heaven, and Facing the Wave, which was long-listed for the National Book Award. Her books have won many awards, including the first Henry David Thoreau Award for Nature Writing, the PEN USA Award for Nonfiction, the Harold D. Vurcell Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, three National Geographic Expedition Grants for travel in the Arctic, a Whiting Award, and an NEA. Her work has appeared in Harper’s, The Atlantic, Orion, the New York Times Magazine, and Best Essays of the Century, among many other publications. Her poetry was featured on the PBS NewsHour. Gretel traveled for 20 years in northwestern Greenland by dogsled with subsistence Inuit hunters. In 2007, the National Geographic Expeditions Council sent her around the top of the world to explore with indigenous Arctic people in Alaska, Nunavut, Greenland, and Arctic Russia, how their lives were affected by climate change. An updated report from Greenland, on climate and Arctic culture appeared in the April, 2015 issue of Harper’s Magazine. She lives with her partner, Neal Conan on a farm in the highlands of the Big Island of Hawai‘i, and a cabin in Montana.

Omar El Akkad | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Omar El Akkad was born in Cairo, Egypt and grew up in Doha, Qatar before moving to Canada with his family. An award-winning journalist and author, El Akkad has traveled around the world to cover many of the most important news stories of the last decade. His reporting includes dispatches from the NATO-led war in Afghanistan, the military trials in Guantanamo Bay, the Arab Spring revolution in Egypt, and the Black Lives Matter movement in Ferguson, Missouri. El Akkad is a recipient of Canada’s National Newspaper Award for investigative reporting and the Goff Penny Memorial Prize for Young Canadian Journalists, as well as three National Magazine Award honorable mentions. His critically acclaimed debut American War, published in 2017, is a post-apocalyptic novel set during the second American Civil War in the year 2074. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest | Visiting Writer, NonfictioNOW Keynote

Stephanie Elizondo Griest is a globe-trotting author from the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Her books include the travel memoirs Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana; Mexican Enough; and All the Agents & Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands as well as the best-selling guidebook 100 Places Every Woman Should Go. She has also written for The New York Times, Washington Post, VQR, The Believer, Orion, and The Oxford American. Distinctions include a Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize. She teaches creative nonfiction at UNC-Chapel Hill and can be found at StephanieElizondoGriest.com.

Maritza N. Estrada | Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter; Piper Student Mentor

Maritza N. Estrada is a first-year MFA student in Creative Writing at Arizona State University. She is the recipient of the 2019 Virginia G. Piper Creative
Research Fellowship, winner of the Mabelle A. Lyon Poetry Award, and recently participated in Winter Tangerine’s workshop at Poet’s House. Her work can be found in Rio Grande Review, The Flat Waters Stirs: An Anthology of Emerging Nebraska Poets, Misbehaving Nebraskans Anthology, and 13th Floor Magazine. Estrada was born in Washington, raised in Nebraska, and is marking residencia in Arizona.

Michelle M. Feeney | Piper Writers Studio Showcase Reader

Michelle M. Feeney is the founder of Michele M. Feeney LLC. Her practice is devoted to mediation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. Michele is the Director of Curriculum for the Arizona Legal Center, located in the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and teaches “Creative Writing for Lawyers.” Michele earned her B.A. degree from the University of Michigan and her J.D. degree from the University of Notre Dame. Michele has published several short stories and non-fiction pieces, regularly attends writing conferences and classes, and will begin the low-residency MFA program at Bennington College in January 2020. She is married to Matthew P. Feeney and the parent of five children.

Patrick Michael Finn | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Patrick Michael Finn is the author of the short story collection From the Darkness Right Under Our Feet and the novella A Martyr for Suzy Kosasovich, which was recently translated and published in France by Les Arenes as Ceci Est Mon Corps (This is My Body). His fiction has appeared in Ploughshares, TriQuarterly, Third Coast, and The Best American Mystery Stories, among many other magazines and journals, and he has received Distinguished Story Citations in both The Best American Short Stories and the Pushcart Prize Anthology.

Nikky Finney | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Nikky Finney was born by the sea in South Carolina and raised during the Civil Rights, Black Power, and Black Arts Movements. She began reading and writing poetry as a teenager growing up in the spectacle and human theatre of the deep South. At Talladega College, she began to autodidactically explore the great intersections between art, history, politics, and culture. These same arenas of exploration are ongoing today in her writing, teaching and spirited belief in one-on-one activism. She is the author of four books of poetry, On Wings Made of Gauze, RICE, The World Is Round, and Head Off & Split, which won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2011. She has written extensively for journals, magazines, and other publications. For twenty-one years she taught creative writing at the University of Kentucky and now holds the John Bennett, Jr., Chair in Creative Writing and Southern Letters at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She travels extensively, never lecturing, always inviting and hoping for conversations that just might improve the human condition.

Anna Flores | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Anna Flores is a writer and actress born in the border town, Nogales, Arizona. She believes the fragmented, imagistic form of poetry is most like our inherent, human way of processing thought… and trauma. Flores was awarded a 2017 Swarthout Award for her poetry collection, La Frontera and is nominated for a 2018 Arizona Mayor’s Arts award for literary artist of the year. Her poems are featured in Write On, Downtown Literary Journal, Arizona Republic Newspaper, Arizona’s Best Emerging Poets Anthology, and Shrew Literary Zine among others. Her debut poetry collection Pocha Theory has been spotlighted by PHOENIX Magazine, Phoenix Fray digital magazine, and La Phoenikera Magazine. When she isn’t writing or reading, she works as a communications assistant for immigrant-rights centered grassroots organizations in the valley and produces radical works with New Carpa Theater Collective which she co-founded.
Jake Friedman | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Moderator

Jake Friedman currently serves as the Marketing and Outreach Specialist at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. Prior to that, he served as a Coordinator. He joined the Piper Center in August of 2016. Jake was the Founder, Director, and Editor in Chief of an independent community literary magazine and small press called *Four Chambers*, and has extensive experience organizing numerous grassroots events and programs throughout the Valley (including readings, writing groups, workshops, classes, presentations, public art partnerships, and more). He graduated from McDaniel College in 2011 with a BA in English and Philosophy. He served as an intern with the Arizona Commission on the Arts in early 2016. Before that, he bartended and waited tables. As a writer, Jake usually writes poetry and experimental prose and has a few publications, including the 7th Avenue Streetscape Project on the corner of 7th Avenue and Glenrosa in the city of Phoenix. He has also been known to speak to groups, edit, and occasionally teach. He lives in Phoenix with his partner and a cat.

Addison Gallegos | Piper Intern

Addison Gallegos is currently in her last year as an undergrad at Arizona State University, studying English Creative Writing with a concentration in fiction. She completed a year-long internship with ASU’s *Marooned* Literary Journal as an Editorial Board Member for the 2017-2018 edition. Addison joined the Piper Center in August 2018 as the undergraduate intern.

Terry Galloway | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Faculty

Terry Galloway, a deaf queer writer/performer/activist who writes, performs, and agitates. Her solo performances have been produced in venues ranging from the American Place Theater in NYC to the Zap Club in Brighton England. She works as a community artist/activist and co-founded a series of theaters in Austin Texas and Tallahassee Florida promoting original work by members of marginalized communities. *The Ugly Girl*, her queer/disability themed musical, debuted at DaDaFest in Liverpool and toured the UK. Her memoir, *Mean Little Deaf Queer* was published by Beacon Press. Her work has garnered awards from, among others, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Texas Institute of Letters, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Sarah Rafael García | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Sarah Rafael García is a writer, community educator and traveler. Since publishing *Las Niñas* (Floricanto Press 2008), she founded Barrio Writers, LibroMobile and Crear Studio. She is a Macondo Fellow and editor for the *Barrio Writers* and *pariahs* anthologies. In 2016, García was awarded for “SanTana’s Fairy Tales” (Raspa Magazine 2017), which was supported in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, through a grant supporting the Artist-in-Residence initiative at CSUF Grand Central Art Center. In early 2018, she participated in a collaborative artist residency at The Guesthouse, Cork, Ireland. In October 2018, she will be honored as an Emerging Artist at the 19th Annual Orange County Arts Awards. Currently, she spends her days stacking books at LibroMobile, providing interdisciplinary literary art workshops and juggling time to write in Santa Ana, California.
Howard Gershkowitz | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor; Piper Writers Studio Showcase Reader

Debut novelist Howard Gershkowitz’s work has appeared in print and online, in such prestigious publications as Michigan State University’s quarterly The Offbeat, and the Arizona Consortium of the Art’s Blue Guitar. Most recently, “Window on the Square” took first place honors in the 2018 Tempe, Arizona, creative writing contest, judged by Arizona State University’s Creative Writing Department. Howard has served as an investment professional for the last thirty-four years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey, and lives in Chandler with his wife of 40 years, Lisa, who is his most ardent supporter.

Carmen Giménez Smith | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Keynote

Born in New York, poet Carmen Giménez Smith is the daughter of South American immigrants. A CantoMundo fellow, she earned a BA in English from San Jose State University and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Iowa’s Writer Workshop. She writes lyric essays as well as poetry, and is the author of the poetry chapbook Casanova Variations (2009), the full-length collection Odalisque in Pieces (2009), the memoir Bring Down the Little Birds: On Mothering, Art, Work, and Everything Else (2010). Her 2013 collection Milk and Filth, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her latest collection of poems, Cruel Futures, is to be a volume in the City Lights Spotlight Series in 2018. Be Recorder will be published by Graywolf Press in 2019. She co-edited Angels of the Americlypse: New Latin@ Writing, an anthology of contemporary Latinx writing (Counterpath Press, 2014), and she is the current editor of The Nation’s poetry section, alongside Stephanie Burt. Carmen serves as the publisher of Noemi Press, which has published over 40 full-length collections of poetry and fiction. Giménez Smith is the chair of the organizing committee for CantoMundo. She is a Professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA, where she lives with her husband, writer Evan Lavender Smith, and their two children.

Global Sport Institute | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

The Global Sport Institute is where diverse disciplines come together to thoughtfully examine critical issues impacting sport. We bridge the gap between academic research and real-life implications by translating our findings into meaningful information that is easily understood, and we actively share that knowledge with the audiences who need it.

Warren Glynn | Piper Writers Studio Instructor, Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter

Warren Glynn is an MFA candidate in fiction at Arizona State University, currently in his third year, where he teaches creative writing and composition. He serves as the fiction editor for Hayden’s Ferry Review. He is originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Joseph Han | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Joseph Han was born in Seoul, South Korea and currently lives in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. He is the author of Uncrossable: Stories (YesYes Books, forthcoming September 2019). His work has appeared in Joyland Magazine, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, Little Fiction, Kartika Review, and The Margins. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Hawai‘i-Manoa, where he teaches creative writing and composition.
Susan Devan Harness, author of Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption, is a member of the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes. She is a writer, a lecturer, a cultural anthropologist and oral historian. Harness received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Montana and her M.A. in Cultural Anthropology as well as Creative Nonfiction writing from Colorado State University. Her profession, as well as her experience as an American Indian transracial adoptee, gives her a unique perspective on the history of Native Americans in contemporary culture. She has written many articles about American Indian history and is a highly-regarded speaker on the topics of American Indian history and assimilation policies, including American Indian transracial adoption. Her research of American Indian transracial adoptees, Mixing Cultural Identities Through Transracial Adoption: Outcomes of the Indian Adoption Project (1958–1967) was published in 2009 by Edwin Mellen Press.

Kay Hartford writes literary and speculative fiction and mysteries. Her first byline was “The Puzzle Cube,” published in 1982 in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine’s Department of First Stories. That short story turned out to be a springboard for nonfiction assignments in local magazines and newspapers, which in turn took her to a staff job at a business journal chain and a two-decade newspaper career. Her first novel was published in 1998. After two decades as an editor and writer for regional newspapers, she turned back to writing fiction. She publishes under her own imprint, Nineteen Cents Press. Kay grew up in Southern California; she now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. Her most recent book is All the Colors, a literary novel published on Jan. 8, 2019.

Elizabyth Hiscox is the author of Reassurance in Negative Space (Word Galaxy, 2017). Her poetry scholarship has appeared in the Journal of Modern Literature. She’s served editorial roles for New Issues Poetry & Prose, 42opus, Third Coast, and is Editor-in-Chief of Western Press Books. Former Poet-in-Residence at Durham University (UK), she has taught writing in England, the Czech Republic,
and Spain and currently instructs at Western Colorado University where she is founding director of the Contemporary Writer Series.

**Holum Press | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor**

Holum Press is a publishing collective based in Phoenix, AZ. We produce *Oasis*, a journal of anticapitalism in the desert. *Oasis* blends the personal with the critical, and its contributors grapple with anticapitalist themes through essay, prose, poetry, and art. We are interested in publishing more voices calling from the desert. If you have a project in mind, please drop us a line at editors@holumpress.com.

**Hoot n Waddle | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor**

Hoot n Waddle is a publishing and digital audio company run by a hoot and a waddle, or Jared Duran and Janell Hughes. Started in 2016, HnW began as a platform for Phoenix, AZ-based arts and culture podcasts (a co-op of sorts). In March of 2018, it was announced that the company would enter the independent publishing world, with the first books slated for release in the fall of the same year. To-date, we have published work by Andrea Scarpino, Ann Stewart McBee, Christopher Danowski, David Chorlton, Jack Evans, and Ron Riekki, with work forthcoming from Christine Sloan Stoddard, Clottee Hammons, klipschutz, Mike Chin, and Rob Carney.

**Heather Lynn Horvat | Piper Writers Studio Showcase Reader**

Heather Lynn Horvat is a graduate of the Mountainview MFA and is working on a memoir about sexuality and self-abuse. Her work has appeared in *The Blue Guitar* Magazine, *The Sunlight Press*, and *Every Day Fiction*. “One-Way Ticket,” a story about mental illness, was a finalist for the Spring Fiction Contest. Another fiction piece won first place in a short story contest. She regularly writes short stories and features for multiple magazines.

**Vedran Husic | Visiting Writer, ASU MFA Alumni Reader**

Vedran Husic was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina and raised in Germany and the United States. His collection of stories, *Basements and Other Museums*, won the St. Lawrence Book Award and was published by Black Lawrence Press in 2018. He has work published in *The Gettysburg Review, The Massachusetts Review, Mississippi Review, Eco-tone, Electric Literature’s Recommended Reading*, and elsewhere. He is the recipient of fellowships from The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Blair Hurley | Piper Writers Studio Instructor**

Blair Hurley is the author of *The Devoted*, published by W.W. Norton, which was longlisted for The Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize. Her work is published or forthcoming in *The Georgia Review, Ninth Letter, Guernica, Paris Review Daily, West Branch, Mid-American Review*, and elsewhere. She received a 2018 Pushcart Prize and scholarships from Bread Loaf and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. She teaches creative writing at McMaster University and the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies.

**Abdi Nor Iftin | Visiting Writer**

When the civil war in Somalia began, Abdi Nor Iftin was five; he and his brother became the sole providers for the family while they also attended a madrassa. Amidst the daily shelling and the famine, Abdi had one escape: American movies and music. At neighborhood showings of Rambo, Commando, and The Terminator, Abdi learned of America, and taught himself English, and began to dream of a life in the United States. In *Call Me American*, Iftin recounts his harrowing, extraordinary, and uplifting story. His love of western culture and music earned
him the name “Abdi American.” This became a liability when Islamic extremism took hold of Somalia. Evading conscription by al-Shabaab while secretly filing stories for NPR under penalty of death, he stayed in Somalia until he had no choice but to flee. He smuggled himself into Kenya, where a different but grinding life of hopelessness awaited. He spent days hiding silently in an apartment from raids by Kenyan police, once passing time reading *The Art of the Deal* by Donald Trump. And then, a stroke of incredible luck: he won the Diversity Visa Lottery. Now a proud and legal resident of Maine and on the path to citizenship this year, Abdi is attending a university in Maine, and working on a film about his book. He volunteers with his immigrant community in Maine, where he translates for people with limited English.

**Institute of American Indian Arts | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor**

For over 50 years, the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) has played a key role in the direction and shape of Native expression. With the Low Residency MFA in Creative Writing, now entering its sixth year, and its successful BFA in Creative Writing, IAIA is continuing its legacy of graduating successful writers who contribute to the body of Native American and world literatures. The MFA in Creative Writing is a two-year, low residency program that welcomes and celebrates diversity while emphasizing the importance of Native writers giving voice to the Native experience. The program offers one-on-one mentorships with faculty who specialize in multiple genres, including screenwriting, poetry, creative non-fiction, and fiction. Students gather twice a year on the IAIA campus in Santa Fe, NM for an intensive week of workshops, lectures, and readings with prominent Native and non-Native faculty and visiting writers.

**Iron City Magazine | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor**

*Iron City Magazine* is an online and print journal devoted entirely to writing and art from the prison world. It is our hope that through this creative platform, incarcerated artists and writers find value in their stories, fuel for personal growth, and pride in their accomplishments. Prisoners are, first and foremost, people. They own stories worthy of telling and sharing. *Iron City Magazine* aims to highlight these stories in a way more permanent than a private journal.

**Tara Ison | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty**


**Yvette Johnson | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference Faculty**

Yvette Johnson is an accomplished writer, filmmaker, speaker, and the Executive Director of the Booker Writer Project which facilitates workshops on unconscious bias. Her memoir, *The Song and
the Silence, was published in 2017. Of her book, the Library Journal wrote, “This rich complex family history will appeal to anyone desiring a greater understanding of the consequences of intolerance.” Johnson co-produced the documentary, Booker’s Place: A Mississippi Story, which premiered at the internationally recognized Tribeca Film Festival. The film also won several industry awards including the 2013 International Cinema in Industry: Documentary Gold Award, the 2013 FOCAL International Award for Best Use of Footage in a Factual Production, and the 34th Annual Telly Silver Award for Social Issues.

David Joseph | Piper Student Mentor

David Joseph is an MFA candidate in ASU’s creative writing program and servers as a graduate teaching assistant. He is the winner of Revolution John Magazine’s inaugural Highlander Fiction Award and placed second in Cheap Pop/ GLCL’s 2015 Micro-Fiction Contest. David’s creative work has appeared in Hobart, Entropy, W.W. Norton’s Hint Fiction anthology, and elsewhere. He served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of Susquehanna Review for its 2012 and 2013 issues and now lives with his wife (Kristin) and two cats (Oscar and Mo) in Tempe. Connect with him on Twitter: @dfhjoseph.

Kirby Kim | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

A native of Los Angeles, California, Kirby Kim got his first job in publishing working for Charlotte Sheedy Literary. In 2008, he joined Endeavor which the following year merged with William Morris. He stayed at WME for five years before joining Janklow & Nesbit. Kirby represents both literary and commercial writers, adult and children’s literature. A few of the authors he works with include Craig Davidson, Karolina Waclawiak, Ted Chiang, Gina Apostol, Matt Bell, R. Zamora Linmark, Tracy O’Neill, Peter Boghanni, and Malcolm Brooks. He also represents a range of nonfiction, working with leaders and journalists in the areas of science, culture, and current affairs. Kirby is currently a board member of the Asian American Writers Workshop.

Halee Kirkwood | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow


Bill Konigsberg | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty; Local Writer

Bill Konigsberg is the award-winning author of four young adult novels. The Porcupine of Truth won the PEN Center USA Literary Award and the Stonewall Book Award in 2016. Openly Straight won the Sid Fleischman Award for Humor, and was a finalist for the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award and Lambda Literary Award in 2014. His debut novel, Out of the Pocket won the Lambda Literary Award in 2009. His most recent novel, Honestly Ben, received three starred reviews, from Publisher’s Weekly, Booklist, and School Library Journal. He lives in Chandler, Arizona, with his husband, Chuck, and their Australian Labradoodles, Mabel and Buford.

Kundiman | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Kundiman is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing generations of writers and readers of Asian American literature.
Yi Shun Lai | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Writer; Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Yi Shun Lai is the co-publisher and fiction editor for the Tahoma Literary Review, a thrice-annual literary magazine that promotes literary citizenship, transparency, and sustainable literature. She teaches workshops and classes on creative writing and publishing at the Claremont Colleges, the University of La Verne, and other educational institutions, and in Southern New Hampshire University’s online MFA program. Her debut novel, Not a Self-Help Book: The Misadventures of Marty Wu, is in its fourth printing. It was a semi-finalist for the 2017 Thurber Prize in American Humor. She teaches workshops and classes on creative writing and publishing at the Claremont Colleges, the University of La Verne, and other educational institutions, and in Southern New Hampshire University’s online MFA program. Her debut novel, Not a Self-Help Book: The Misadventures of Marty Wu, is in its fourth printing. It was a semi-finalist for the 2017 Thurber Prize in American Humor. She writes regularly for The Writer magazine on the art of publishing and the craft of writing. Find her online @gooddirt on Twitter and on the web at http://www.thegooddirt.org.

Erin Jade Lange | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Erin Jade Lange is the award-winning author of contemporary young adult novels, Butter, Dead Ends, and Rebel Bully Geek Pariah. She is the winner of the Friedolin Youth Book Prize in Germany and the Sakura Medal in Japan. She has also been nominated for the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize (twice), the German Children’s Literature Award and multiple state book awards. Her debut novel was a 2013 Teens’ Top Ten Pick, and her books have appeared on several state reading lists. As a former journalist, Erin is inspired by current events and real-world issues and uses her writing to explore how those issues impact teenagers. She is an only child, so she spent a lot of time entertaining herself as a kid. This required her to rely heavily on her own imagination, which is probably why she became a writer. Erin grew up in the cornfields of northern Illinois, along the Mississippi River in one of the few places it flows east to west. She now lives in the sunshine of Arizona and will forever be torn between her love of rivers and her love of the desert.

Sarah Leamy | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Sarah Leamy is a queer immigrant writer and MFA candidate. Her novels won two NM/AZ Book Awards. She received the Director’s Award at VCFA, Vermont Book Award Fellowship, AWP Mentorship Program, and a scholarship to the Post Graduate Writer’s Conference. She has taught workshops in NM, VT, CA and MI. Leamy’s work appears in Hunger Mountain, SF Writer’s Project Quarterly, Wanderlust, and Medium. She is finishing up a collection of shorts as well as a novel.

Tucker Leighty-Phillips | Piper Student Mentor

Tucker Leighty-Phillips is an MFA candidate in fiction at Arizona State University, where he is also an associate editor at Hayden’s Ferry Review. His work has been featured or forthcoming at Smokelong Quarterly, Hobart, West Branch Wired, WhiskeyPaper, and elsewhere.

Letras Latinas | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Letras Latinas, the literary initiative at the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS), strives to enhance the visibility, appreciation and study of Latinx literature both on and off the campus of the University of Notre Dame—with an emphasis on programs that support newer voices, foster a sense of community among writers, and place Latinx writers in community spaces.

Francisco Aragón is the son of Nicaraguan immigrants. He is the author of two books: Glow of Our Sweat and Puerta del Sol, as well as editor of the anthology: The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry. After Rubén, his third book, is forthcoming with Red Hen Press in 2020. His Tongue A Swath of Sky, a hand-stitched chapbook, was released in 2019. He is the director of Letras Latinas, the literary initiative at the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies. For more information, visit: http://franciscoaragon.net
The Literary Review | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

The Literary Review (TLR) publishes the best new fiction, poetry, and prose from a broad community of international writers and translators, both emerging and established, whose commonality is literary quality and urgency of voice and artistic conviction. It is this genuine community of readers, writers, and publishers that distinguishes us. Our editorial standard is to read with an open, discerning mind, and to publish carefully and vigorously. We connect our writers to readers. TLR has been published since 1957 by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Bojan Louis | Fellow-in-Residence

Bojan Louis (Diné) is a poet, fiction writer, and essayist. He teaches various composition courses at Arizona State University’s Downtown Campus. His first poetry collection is Currents (BkMk Press 2017).

Lux | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Lux Undergraduate Creative Review encourages the emerging talent of all undergraduate students by providing a creative outlet for their literary and artistic work. The review is produced with the help of Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. Lux accepts poetry, fiction, visual art, song lyrics, screenplays, creative non-fiction, music, film, and other modes of expression beyond the bounds of traditional genres. We value originality, individuality, artistry, diversity, and passion.

Kelly Lydick | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Kelly Lydick received her B.A. in Writing and Literature from Burlington College, and her M.A. in Writing and Consciousness from the New College of California, San Francisco (now at CIIS). Her writing has appeared in Guernica, The Rumpus, Drunken Boat, Switched-on Gutenberg, Mission at Tenth, Thema, Tarpaulin Sky, and many others. She is the author of the experimental, Mastering the Dream, and contributing author to the anthologies Dreams That Change Our Lives, My Journal My Journey, and Are You the Missing Piece?. She is a member of the co-founding editorial team and Associate Editor of Immanence Journal. Kelly also holds certifications as a Gateway Dreaming™ Coach, Meditation Facilitator, Reiki Master, Crystal Reiki Master, Past Life Healer, Animal Reiki Master, and others. She teaches creative writing and personal growth workshops, and offers private consultations for those interested in creativity and conscious expansion. Her signature workshop, Writing the Dream Time, has been featured at Burlington College, ASU’s Piper Center for Creative Writing, the International Association for the Study of Dreams, and others.

Laura Maher | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Laura Maher is the author of the chapbook, Sleep Water (dancing girl press, 2017). Her work has appeared in The Common, Crazyhorse, The Collagist, New Ohio Review, and Third Coast, among others. Maher holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona, a Master of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Fine Arts from Warren Wilson College. She lives, works, and writes in Tucson, Arizona.

Douglas Manuel | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Douglas Manuel was born in Anderson, Indiana. He received a BA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University and an MFA from Butler University where he was the Managing Editor of Booth: A Journal. He is currently a Middleton and Dornsife Fellow at the University of Southern California where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing. He has been the Poetry Editor of Gold Line Press as well as one of the managing editors of Ricochet Editions. His work is featured on the Poetry

**Jane Marcellus | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow**

Jane Marcellus’ personal essays and short memoir have appeared in the *Washington Post, Gettysburg Review, Sycamore Review, Hippocampus,* and other publications. She is the 2018 winner of the Betty Gabehart Prize in nonfiction given by the Kentucky Women Writers Conference and has attended workshops with Rebecca McClanahan and Kiese Laymon. Also a media historian, she is the author of *Business Girls and Two-Job Wives: Emerging Media Stereotypes of Employed Women* (Hampton Press, 2011) and a co-author of *Mad Men and Working Women: Feminist Perspectives on Historical Power, Resistance, and Otherness* (Peter Lang, 2014). She is a professor at Middle Tennessee State University.

**Michelle Memran | Visiting Writer**

Michelle Memran is a documentary filmmaker, illustrator, and journalist. For nearly twenty years she has worked as a reporter and researcher in New York City, and has written for numerous publications. Her award-winning documentary feature debut, *The Rest I Make Up,* had its World Premiere at MoMA’s Doc Fortnight on February 16th, 2018, and returned to MoMA in August for a weeklong run. It was just named one of “The Best Movies of 2018” by Richard Brody in *The New Yorker.*

**Tiffany Meuret | Piper Writers Studio Showcase Reader**

Tiffany Meuret is a writer, mother, and OCD sufferer from Phoenix, Arizona. Her work has been published or is forthcoming with *Shoreline of Infinity, MoonPark Review, Collective Unrest, Martian,* and others. Find her online at www.TiffanyMeuret.com or Twitter @TMeuretBooks. Good talking points are strong coffee and small dogs.

**Deborah Miranda | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty**

Deborah A. Miranda is an enrolled member of the Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen. Her mixed-genre book *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir,* received the PEN-Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award, a Gold Medal from the Independent Publishers Association, and was short-listed for the William Saroyan Literary Award. Her most recent poetry collection is *Raised by Humans,* previous collections include *The Zen of La Llorona* and *Indian Cartography.* An unpublished manuscript, *Altar for Broken Things,* is looking for a publisher. Miranda is Professor of English at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia where she teaches literature and creative writing.

**Todd Mitchell | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Writer**

Todd Mitchell is the author of several award-winning books for young readers and teens including *The Last Panther* (2018 Colorado Book Award Winner and Green Earth Honor Book Award winner), *The Traitor King, The Secret to Lying* (Colorado Book Award Winner), and *Backwards* (CAL Award Winner). He created the graphic series *Broken Saviors* (available on Comixology), and co-wrote the graphic novel *A Flight of Angels* (Vertigo, a YALSA “Top 10 Great Graphic Novels for Teens”). Currently, he serves as Director of the Beginning Creative Writing Teaching Program at Colorado State University. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife, dog, and two wise daughters. You can visit him (and learn about his squirrel obsession) at www.ToddMitchellBooks.com.
Patricia Colleen Murphy | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Patricia Colleen Murphy founded Superstition Review at Arizona State University, where she teaches creative writing and magazine production. Her book Hemming Flames (Utah State University Press) won the 2016 May Swenson Poetry Award judged by Stephen Dunn, and the 2017 Milt Kessler Poetry Award. A chapter from her memoir in progress was published as a chapbook by New Orleans Review. Her writing has appeared in many literary journals, including The Iowa Review, Quarterly West, American Poetry Review, and most recently in Copper Nickel, Black Warrior Review, North American Review, Smartish Pace, Burnside Review, Poetry Northwest, Third Coast, Hobart, decomP, Midway Journal, Armchair/Shotgun, and Natural Bridge. She lives in Phoenix, AZ.

Cherrie Moraga | Visiting Writer

Cherrie Moraga is a writer and cultural activist whose work disrupts the dominant narratives of gender, race, sexuality, feminism, indigeneity, and literature in the United States. A cofounder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Moraga coedited the influential volume This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color (1981). In 2017, after twenty years as an Artist-in-Residence in Theater at Stanford University, Moraga was appointed a professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where, with her artistic partner Celia Herrera Rodriguez, she founded Las Maestras Center for Xicana Indigenous Thought and Art Practice. She is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Theatre Playwriting Fellowship Award and a Rockefeller Fellowship for Literature.

Humberto Chip Nieto | Piper Student Mentee

Erin Noehre | Piper Writers Studio Instructor; Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter

Erin Noehre is a Midwestern-born poet currently living and writing in Tempe, Arizona where she is an MFA candidate at Arizona State University and an associate editor at Hayden’s Ferry Review. She is the recipient of an Interdisciplinary Enrichment Fellowship from the Graduate College at Arizona State University as well as the Dr. Russell Brock Memorial Scholarship for Non-Technical Writing. Her work has been featured or is forthcoming from The Poetry Spot in AZCentral, Northern Lights (2016 award for best poetry), and Sonora Review.

Justin Noga | Piper Writers Studio Instructor, Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter, Piper Student Mentor

Justin Noga is a fiction writer from Akron, Ohio, and is a second-year MFA student at Arizona State University. He teaches composition and creative writing at ASU, taught for the Piper Writers Studio at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing in Summer 2018, and was the recipient of the 2018 Virginia G. Piper Global Teaching Fellowship for the National University of Singapore. His work has been published in Conjunctions. He lives with a whippet/terrier with a Napoleon complex.

Normal Noise | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Normal Noise is a semestery magazine supported by Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. Each issue provokes conversation about the complexities of everyday life through essays, creative nonfiction, journalism, poetry, photography, and art. Our print publication seeks to examine the role that the arts and humanities play in shaping
cultural, social, and political life in Arizona and especially in the ASU community. We hope to cultivate a space of resistance against the shrinkage of intellectual life and critical perspectives within the university. Brandishing our magnifying glasses, we go out into the wilderness of the New American University, Phoenix, and beyond, asking odd questions in hopes of coming to a new understanding of how forms of power work and shape our everyday life.

Achy Obejas | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Faculty

Achy Obejas is the critically acclaimed author of The Tower of the Antilles, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, the PEN Open Book Award and the Aspen Word Prize. Her previous books include Days of Awe and Ruins. As a translator, she’s worked with Junot Díaz, Wendy Guerra and Rita Indiana, among others. Born in Havana, she currently lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Sponsor

The Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement serves the Arizona State University community by promoting dialogue, teaching, and research that increases information, understanding, knowledge, and relationships among military, civilian, and academic cultures. Our goal is to listen to veteran students, look for ways to connect them with faculty and other students, and continue to learn where and how to build bridges between these different cultures. We welcome your suggestions and integration ideas, and look forward to learning together and developing opportunities to serve one another.

Morgan Parker | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Morgan Parker is the author of There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé and Other People’s Comfort Keeps Me Up at Night. In 2019, a third collection of poems, Magical Negro, will be published by Tin House, and a young adult novel will be published with Delacorte Press. Her debut book of nonfiction will be released in 2020 by OneWorld. Parker is the recipient of a 2017 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, winner of a Pushcart Prize, and a Cave Canem graduate fellow. She is the creator and host of Reparations, Live! at the Ace Hotel. With Tommy Pico, she co-curates the Poets with Attitude (PWA) reading series, and with Angel Nafis, she is The Other Black Girl Collective. She lives in Los Angeles.

Gregory Pardlo | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Gregory Pardlo’s collection Digest (Four Way Books) won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His other honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York Foundation for the Arts; his first collection Totem was selected by Brenda Hillman for the APR/Honickman Prize in 2007. He is Poetry Editor of Virginia Quarterly Review and currently teaches in the graduate writing program at Rutgers-Camden University. Air Traffic, a memoir in essays, was released by Knopf in April.

Palabras Bilingual Bookstore | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Palabras is Arizona’s only bilingual bookstore with a carefully curated selection of titles in Spanish and English that hosts a variety of community events and workshops focused on cultural representation and diversity.

Aeron Ogden | Piper Student Mentee
Justin Petropoulos | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Moderator

Justin Petropoulos is the author of two collections of poetry, *Eminent Domain* (Marsh Hawk Press 2011), selected by Anne Waldman for the 2010 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize and *Devouring the Green: Fear of a Human Planet* (Jaded Ibis Press 2013), a collaborative work with multimedia artist, Carla Gannis. His poems have appeared in *American Letters & Commentary, Columbia Poetry Review, Mandorla*, among others, and have been included in the anthologies *Devouring the Green: Fear of a Human Planet* (Jaded Ibis Press 2015) and *The &NOW Awards 3* (Lake Forest College Press 2015). He is currently the program manager for Arizona State University’s Creative Writing Program.

Phoenix Art Museum | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for nearly 60 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. In addition to an annual calendar of special exhibitions, Phoenix Art Museum’s permanent-collection galleries are drawn from more than 19,000 objects of modern and contemporary art, fashion design, and photography, as well as American, Asian, Latin American, and European art. Each month, the Museum hosts a wide variety of public programs, including lectures, performances, tours, workshops, and film screenings designed for audiences of all ages to enjoy. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit phxart.org, or call 602.257.1880.

Kalani Pickhart | Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter; Piper Student Mentor

Tommy Pico | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Tommy “Teebs” Pico is a poet from the Viejas Indian reservation of the Kumeyaay nation, and currently lives in Brooklyn. He is author of the books *IRL, Nature Poem, Junk*, and myriad keen tweets, including “sittin on the cock of the gay.” He co-curates the reading series Poets With Attitude (PWA) with Morgan Parker, co-hosts the podcast Food 4 Thot, and is a contributing editor at *Literary Hub*. @ heytebs

Stella Pope Duarte | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Inspired to become a writer by a prophetic dream of her father in 1995, acclaimed author, activist and educator, Stella Pope Duarte, is named by critics as a “major, literary voice in America.” She is described as a “magical weaver with a sure hand and a pure heart,” and recognized as an “author who will enlarge humanity.” Her most current work is a biography entitled: *Raul H. Yzaguirre: Seated at the Table of Power*, which won the “Best Biography in English,” at the 2017 International Latino Book Awards in Los Angeles. Her many awards include a 2009 American Book Award, Southwest Book of the Year Award, Arizona Book of the Year Award, and a Book Sense 76 Selection. She teaches creative writing at colleges and community centers, and is often a speaker and keynote presenter at writing conferences nationwide.

Read Better Be Better | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Read Better Be Better is a non-profit, after-school reading comprehension program that focuses on solving Arizona’s literacy crisis. Read Better Be Better is a program targeted toward breaking the cycles of poverty and social injustice through our curriculum of good reading and good thinking skills. Books and learning hold the key to doing well in grades 4 and above, where students must start reading on their own to learn. It is at this critical juncture that the poor readers turn away from school, or earn barely passing grades until they can drop out. Literacy holds the key, and third grade is the precise moment to change their trajectory.
Red Hen Press | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Exhibitor

Red Hen Press is committed to publishing works of literary excellence, supporting diversity, and promoting literacy in our local schools. We seek a community of readers and writers who are actively engaged in the essential human practice known as literature.

rinky dink press | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Exhibitor

rinky dink press—a Phoenix-based publisher of micropoetry in microzine form—is on a mission to get finely crafted poetry back in the hands of the people. Each of our single-author collections can fit in your pocket, but we never sacrifice craft, and despite the tiny format, we refuse to sacrifice style. We believe that we have the right aesthetic, price point, and diversity of published authors (and editors) to help make poetry part of the literary arts landscape again.

Alberto Ríos | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Faculty

Alberto Ríos, Arizona’s inaugural poet laureate and a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, is the author of eleven books and chapbooks of poetry, including The Theater of Night—winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award—three collections of short stories, and a memoir about growing up on the border, Capirotada. His book The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body was a finalist for the National Book Award. Ríos is the recipient of numerous accolades and his work is included in over 300 national and international literary anthologies. He is also the host of the PBS program Books & Co. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. Ríos is a University Professor of Letters, Regents’ Professor, and the Katharine C. Turner Chair in English at Arizona State University. His most recent book is A Small Story About the Sky.

Iliana Rocha | Visiting Writer, ASU MFA
Alumnae Reader

Iliana Rocha earned her PhD in English Literature and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University. Her work has been featured in the Best New Poets 2014 anthology, as well as The Nation, Virginia Quarterly Review, Blackbird, and West Branch. Karankawa, her debut collection, won the 2014 AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry and is available through the University of Pittsburgh Press. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Central Oklahoma and lives with her three chihuahuas Nilla, Beans, and Migo.

Hayley Rose | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Exhibitor

Hayley Rose is a #1 best-selling, award-winning author, dedicated to bringing fun, educational and inspiring books to children. Hayley has been entertaining and educating children across the country since 2002. Her range of educational, interactive concept books have earned over 50 national and international book awards and cover subjects ranging from manners and kindness, math and geography, to music and emotions. School presentations include curriculum for teachers grades K-4th. Her experience with Amazon has increased her exposure and book sales well beyond most authors expectations and her technique and generosity at teaching others is stellar.

Joel Salcido | Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA
Presenter

Joel Salcido was born in the San Fernando Valley and raised in West Phoenix. He is the son of Mexican immigrants, a first-generation college graduate, a husband, and father of three sons. Salcido characterizes his work as hood magical realism—a navigation between the grief and ecstasy of place and experience. His poetry and prose are not simply
written to or about his culture and community—but from it. His work has been featured in Write On, Downtown, Public Pool, The Decolonizer, Acentos Review and Four Chambers among others. He is the recipient of a Virginia G. Piper Creative Research Fellowship and a Winter Tangerine workshop alumnus. Salcido is the Editor-in-Chief of Hayden’s Ferry Review and an MFA candidate in poetry at Arizona State University.

Matthew Salesses | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Matthew Salesses is the author of the novel The Hundred-Year Flood (Little A/Amazon Publishing), an Amazon Bestseller, Best Book of September, and Kindle First pick; an Adoptive Families Best Book of 2015; a Millions Most Anticipated of 2015; a Thought Catalog Essential Contemporary Book by an Asian American Writer; and a Best Book of the season at BuzzFeed, Refinery29, and Gawker, among others. Forthcoming are a new novel, Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear (Little A, 2020), and a collection of essays, Own Story (Little A, 2021). His previous books and chapbooks include I’m Not Saying, I’m Just Saying (Civil Coping Mechanisms), Different Racisms: On Stereotypes, the Individual, and Asian American Masculinity (Thought Catalog Books), and The Last Repatriate (Nouvella). BuzzFeed named him one of 32 Essential Asian American Writers in 2015. Matthew is an Assistant Professor of English at Coe College and teaches in the Low-residency MFA Program at Ashland University.

James Sallis | Piper Writers Studio Instructor, Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

James Sallis has published seventeen novels, multiple collections of short stories and essays, four collections of poetry, three books of musicology, reams of criticism, a classic biography of Chester Himes, a book on paperback novelists of the fifties, and a translation of Raymond Queneau’s novel Saint Glinglin—36 books, to date. His novels include Drive, from which the award-winning film derived, the six-volume Lew Griffin cycle, Death Will Have Your Eyes, Others of My Kind, and Will-not. Jim has received a lifetime achievement award from Bouchercon, the Hammett Award for literary excellence in crime writing, and the Grand Prix de Littérature policière. This year sees a new novel, Sarah Jane, and a new poetry collection, Ain’t Long ‘Fore Day.

Sara Sams | Local Writer

Sara Sams is a poet, essayist, and translator from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She currently works as an instructor for Arizona State University’s College of Interdisciplinary Humanities & Communications, where she provides faculty support for the Superstition Review. She is a graduate of Davidson College (B.A.) and Arizona State University (M.F.A.), and has received teaching fellowships from the Ministry of Education of Spain and the National University of Singapore. She blogs about food, books, and other questions of travel along the way.

Fernanda Santos | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Fernanda Santos teaches narrative journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She joined Cronkite after 12 years at The New York Times, including five as its Phoenix Bureau chief. Her first book, The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, received the Western Writers of America 2017 Spur Award for Best First Nonfiction Book and was one of two finalists in the Contemporary Nonfiction category. Santos, who is from Brazil, has reported in three languages, throughout Latin America and United States. She is a recipient of the Kiplinger, International Reporting Project and Casey Children and Family fellowships, and co-author of “Latinos in the United States,” a reference guide by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.
Andrea Scarpino | Piper Writers Studio Visiting Instructor

Andrea Scarpino is the author of the poetry collections *Once Upon Wing Lake* (Four Chambers Press, 2017), *What the Willow Said as it Fell* (Red Hen Press, 2016) and *Once, Then* (Red Hen Press, 2014). She received a Ph.D. in Creative Writing from Bath Spa University and an MFA from The Ohio State University. She has published in numerous journals, is co-editor of *Nine Mile Magazine*, and served as Poet Laureate of Michigan's Upper Peninsula 2015-2017. Her upcoming edited anthology is *Undocumented: Great Lakes Poets Laureate on Social Justice* (MSU Press).

Nicole Sealey | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

Born in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. and raised in Apopka, Florida, Nicole Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast*, finalist for the 2018 PEN Open Book Award, and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the 2015 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant, an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from The American Poetry Review, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in or is forthcoming to *Best American Poetry 2018*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and elsewhere. Nicole holds an MLA in Africana studies from the University of South Florida and an MFA in creative writing from New York University. She is the executive director at Cave Canem Foundation and the 2018-2019 Doris Lippman Visiting Poet at The City College of New York.

Naomi Shihab Nye | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Naomi Shihab Nye is the author and/or editor of more than 30 volumes. Her books of poetry include *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*, *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls*, *Red Suitcase*, *Words Under the Words*, *Fuel*, and *You & Yours* (a best-selling poetry book of 2006). She is also the author of *Mint Snowball, Never in a Hurry, I'll Ask You Three Times, Are you Okay? Tales of Driving and Being Driven* (essays); *Habibi* and *Going Going* (novels for young readers); *Baby Radar, Sitti's Secrets, and Famous* (picture books) and *There Is No Long Distance Now* (a collection of very short stories). Other works include several prize-winning poetry anthologies for young readers, including *Time You Let Me In, This Same Sky, The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems & Paintings from the Middle East, What Have You Lost?*, and *Transfer*. Her collection of poems for young adults entitled *Honeybee* won the 2008 Arab American Book Award in the Children's/Young Adult category. Her novel for children, *The Turtle of Oman*, was chosen both a Best Book of 2014 by *The Horn Book* and a 2015 Notable Children's Book by the American Library Association. *The Turtle of Oman* was also awarded the 2015 Middle East Book Award for Youth Literature. Her most recent book is *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners*. Her next book of poems is entitled *The Tiny Journalist* (BOA Editions Ltd., April 2019).

Amy Silverman | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Amy co-teaches the long-running Mothers Who Write workshop at Changing Hands Bookstore. She’s also taught at ASU’s Cronkite School. Silverman lives in Tempe with her husband and daughters.

Charles Simic | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Jack Smith | Piper Intern

Jack Smith is a Marketing undergraduate student at Arizona State University Barrett Honors College and W.P. Carey School of Business. He is the Founder and President of Just Write, a Creative Writing club at ASU for writers of all backgrounds. He has also completed a 100,000-page Young Adult Fantasy novel and is currently seeking representation. He is constantly seeking to further his education by maintaining a full schedule of Business, Writing, and Fine Art classes. Jack joined the Piper Center in February 2019 as the Marketing Intern.

Beverly Smith-Dawson | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Beverly Smith-Dawson writes stage plays, screenplays, and short stories. She has had stage plays produced in San Francisco, New York City (including off-Broadway), Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Minneapolis. Additionally, her screenplays have been finalists and semi-finalists at the Cinequest Film Festival, the Sundance Lab, The AFI Women in Directing Program, The Moondance Film Festival, and the Hollywood Black Film Festival. Her short story “Chosen” won in the Writers Digest Magazine’s Sci-Fi/Fantasy category of the 2008 Annual Popular Fiction Awards. Smith-Dawson has an MFA in Directing from the Yale School of Drama, and a Certificate in Screenwriting through UCLA Extension. She has been a Lecturer at Arizona State University, and currently teaches for the Maricopa County Community College District.

Haydée (hr) Souffrant | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Haydée (hr) Souffrant is a Chicago-based Haitian American teaching artist and doula-healer, whose work weaves performance, critical race and radical healing theory to probe the intersections of trauma healing and cultural memory through storytelling and creative writing. As an arts administrator, Souffrant’s work through arts programming, healing and creative arts workshops connects multiple identities and cross-cultural communities together in order to create spaces of empathy, healing and social justice for people of color. Souffrant’s literary work has been featured in numerous online literary publications at Oberlin College, Hair Trigger Issue 41, Sixty Inches from Center, and her performance work featured at The Whitney Biennale under the Dance Diaspora Collective, Links Hall @ Constellation, Threewalls at Navy Pier and other venues in and around Chicagoland. A graduate of Oberlin College with a BA in African American Studies and English, Souffrant is currently an MFA Creative Writing Fiction candidate at Columbia College Chicago.

Jennifer Spiegel | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Jennifer Spiegel is a writer and professor. She is half of Snotty Literati, a book-reviewing gig, with Lara Smith. Love Slave is a NY novel full of acerbic and witty cultural critique and Gen X woe. The Freak Chronicles is a story collection with stories set in the U.S., South Africa, Cuba, China, and Russia. And So We Die, Having First Slept, a second novel, follows an unorthodox marriage involving Sappho, brain injury, and addiction. Currently, Spiegel is working on a memoir, Cancer, I’ll Give You One Year: A Non-Informative Guide To Breast Cancer, or Cancer, I’ll Give You One Year: How To Get Your Ba-Da-Bing Boobies On The House! For more information on Spiegel, please visit www.jenniferspiegel.com.
Beth Staples | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

Beth Staples is an assistant professor of English and editor of the literary magazine Shenandoah at Washington & Lee University. She has worked as an editor and publishing professional in a variety of jobs: as the assistant director of The Publishing Laboratory at UNC Wilmington, as editor of Lookout Books, as senior editor of Ecotone, and as the managing editor of Hayden's Ferry Review. (In her early professional life, she also dipped her toe into medical publishing at Elsevier and the print-on-demand publishing world at Xlibris.) In addition to teaching creative writing classes at W&L, she has taught classes in fiction writing, editing, and publishing at UNCW, Mesa Community College, and Arizona State University, where she earned her MFA in fiction writing.

Susan Stoltz | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Susan Stoltz has had many writing opportunities throughout her varied career including journalism, editing, autobiography, short story, newsletter and magazine publishing, and children's books. Her experience in front of classrooms is extensive, with nationwide tours presenting to over 15,000 K-4th grade students. Her children’s books are featured at zoos and aquariums from coast to coast, and each has a definitive message of wildlife and habitat conservation, written in a fun and extremely entertaining way. Although newer to Amazon her sales increased 500% in the first two months and continue to grow in popularity. susanrstoltz@gmail.com

Superstition Review | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Superstition Review is the online literary magazine produced by creative writing and web design students at Arizona State University. Founded by Patricia Colleen Murphy in 2008, the mission of the journal is to promote contemporary art and literature by providing a free, easy-to-navigate, high quality online publication that features work by established and emerging artists and authors from all over the world. We publish two issues a year with art, fiction, interviews, nonfiction, and poetry.

Terese Svoboda | Piper Writers Studio Instructor

A Guggenheim fellow, Terese Svoboda is the author most recently of Professor Harriman’s Steam Airship (poetry, 2016) and Anything That Burns You: A Portrait of Lola Ridge, Radical Poet (biography, 2018), and Great American Desert (stories, 2019). She’s won the Bobst Prize in fiction, the Iowa Prize for poetry, an NEH grant for translation, the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize, the O. Henry award for the short story, the Bobst prize for the novel, and a Pushcart Prize for the essay. Her opera WET premiered at L.A.’s Disney Hall. She’s taught at Williams, Columbia School of the Arts, William and Mary, Bennington, Sarah Lawrence, New School, Davidson, the Universities of Tampa, Miami and Hawaii, as well as in Tbilisi, Nairobi and St. Petersburg for the Summer Literary Seminars.

Jeanette Swain Nicholas | Piper Writers Studio Showcase Reader

Jeanette Swain Nicholas is a retired social worker from the Detroit Police Department. In Detroit she won several awards as a playwright and director. She completed MFA classes in Theatre at Wayne State University. Nicholas lived in Ontario, Canada for 20 years teaching social work before relocating to Arizona. Nicholas began writing poetry at age 65 and began winning contests at age 70. She published her first collection of poems, Separate Birds, Fruit Strange as Blackberry in 2017. She was a featured reader at Changing Hands Bookstore in February of this year. Nicholas is completing her second collection of poems about historic Black female entertainers experiencing life issues which continue to be universal concerns to women today.
Tahoma Literary Review | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

Tahoma Literary Review is an independent literary journal. We publish three issues of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry a year. We pay contributors and support staff, with feedback services available to prose submitters. Issues are available in hard copy and electronically.

Malik Toms | Piper Writers Studio Instructor; Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Malik Toms was born and raised in Harlem, New York, and is a 20+ year veteran of the pen and keyboard. He did his undergraduate work in Sociology at Iowa State University, working as a drug rehabilitation counselor before returning to college to pursue a graduate degree in Creative Writing. He published his first short story at the age 18 after two years of "No thanks." Since then he has worked as a freelance author, which is a bit like being a freelance mercenary minus all the bullets and moral ambiguity. His work has appeared in over thirty publications including multiple anthologies and a stand-alone novella. A graduate of Iowa State’s Creative Writing MFA program, Malik Toms polished his writing skills crafting cyberpunk and steampunk fantasies on the way to multiple Origin and Ennie award nominations including six Ennie wins. Malik also was part of the Shadowrun Returns video game team which won Diehard gameFan’s PC Game of the year in 2013. He is presently hard at work writing his first fantasy thriller. Malik currently lives in Arizona where he is regularly super-smashed by at least one of his three video game obsessed boys. When he isn’t writing, he’s teaching writing and sociology at community colleges throughout the Arizona desert, and maybe watching a lot of TV.

Rashaad Thomas | Piper Writers Studio Instructor; Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow

Rashaad Thomas is a USAF Veteran, essayist, poet, and Voices of Our Nation’s Art Foundation (VONA/Voices) alum, who resides in South Phoenix, AZ. He is an Associate Editor for Hayden’s Ferry Review. He is also a contributor for the University of Arizona Poetry Center Blog and MyClickUrban.com. Thomas is the recipient of the 2016 City of Phoenix Mayor’s Art Award for Language Artist. He is a Spring 2017 MacDowell Colony Fellow and 2017 Hellen Ingram Plummer MacDowell Colony Fellow of the Year. His work can be found in the book Trayvon Martin, Race, and American Justice: Writing Wrong, The Rumpus, Heart Journal Online, Columbia Poetry Review, and others.

TC Tolbert | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Faculty

TC Tolbert often identifies as a trans and genderqueer feminist, collaborator, dancer, and poet but really s/he’s just a human in love with humans doing human things. The author of Gephyromania (Ahsahta Press 2014) and 4 chapbooks, TC is also co-editor (along with Trace Peterson) of Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics (Nightboat Books 2013). S/he is an EMT and spends his summers leading wilderness trips for Outward Bound. TC was recently named Tucson’s Poet Laureate. Gloria Anzaldúa said, Voyager, there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks. John Cage said, it’s lighter than you think.

Tolsun Books | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

Tolsun Books, LLC is a small press based out of Tolleson, Arizona and Las Vegas, Nevada. Tolsun Books believes in the cosmic power of strong relationships with authors, artists, partners, and the community. They make daring, energetic books that use separate parts to construct a whole: poetry, short stories, comics poetry, hybrids, photo stories, flash memoir. At Tolsun, the importance of aesthetic and design is paramount: A Tolsun Book will look beautiful on a bookshelf, coffee table, or nightstand. Go ahead, judge our books by their covers!
Noah Trammell | Desert Nights, Rising Stars
MFA Presenter

Noah Trammell is a poet from Wichita, Kansas. He is an alumnus of the 2017 BOAAT Writer’s Retreat and the 2018 Idyllwild Writer’s Week and a 2019 Virginia G. Piper Global Teaching Fellow. His work has appeared in BOAAT and is forthcoming in West Branch. He is currently a graduate student in the creative writing program at Arizona State University.

Ursula Vernon | Distinguished Visiting Writer

Ursula Vernon is the author and illustrator of far more projects than is probably healthy. She has written over fifteen books for children, several novels for adults, an epic webcomic called “Digger” and various short stories and other odds and ends. Her work has been nominated for the Eisner, World Fantasy, and longlisted for the British Science Fiction Awards. It has garnered a number of Webcomics Choice Awards, enough Junior Library Guild Selections to allow her to cosplay as a six-star general, and a mention in The New York Times, which she did not get tattooed to her forehead, despite her mother’s insistence. Her current project is the Hamster Princess series of books for kids. She also writes for adults under the name T. Kingfisher.

Jan Vičar | Visiting Artist

Jan Vičar studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He has exhibited his work around the world—across Europe, in Japan, the United States, and South Africa; and it is held in collections including the National Gallery in Washington, DC. He has twice won Prague’s Print of the Year in the experimental category. He is the recipient of the 2018 Prix de Gravure Mario Avati from the Académie des Beaux Arts in Paris. He lives outside of Telc in the Czech Republic.

Vanessa Angélica Villarreal | Visiting Writer

Vanessa Angélica Villarreal was born in the Rio Grande Valley borderlands to formerly undocumented Mexican immigrants. She is the author of the collection Beast Meridian (Noemi Press, Akrilica Series, 2017), winner of the John A. Robertson residences; building local, state, and national collaborations; supporting the literary economy in Tucson and beyond; and contributing to Tucson’s identity as a cultural center.

University of Texas at El Paso Department of Creative Writing | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Exhibitor

The only one of its kind in the U.S., the MFA at The University of Texas at El Paso offers a fully bilingual (Spanish and English) course of study in fiction, poetry, playwriting, screenwriting, literary translation and non-fiction. We understand bilingualism not as the requirement that our students speak Spanish and English but rather as the coexistence of both languages in the classroom. Students from Latin America, Spain, and the USA come to our department to develop as writers under the guidance of an award-winning faculty.

The University of Arizona Poetry Center | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Sponsor

The University of Arizona Poetry Center’s mission is to advance a diverse and robust literary culture that serves a local-to-global spectrum of writers, readers, and new audiences for poetry and the literary arts. The Poetry Center fulfills its mission by maintaining one of the most extensive and accessible collections of contemporary poetry in the nation; hosting 6 to 8 exhibitions per year to showcase its unique holdings and celebrate new work; hosting a Reading and Lecture Series that brings nationally recognized writers to Tucson; delivering educational programs, community workshops, and discussion groups; offering writing contests; hosting poet
Award for Best First Book of Poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters and a Kate Tufts Discovery Award finalist. Her work has been featured in Buzz-Feed, the Academy of American Poets, The Boston Review, The Rumpus, The Los Angeles Times, NBC News, and elsewhere. She is a CantoMundo Fellow, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where she is raising her son with the help of a loyal dog.

Joshua Marie Wilkinson | Piper Writers Studio Instructor
Joshua Marie Wilkinson is the author of eight books of poetry, including Meadow Slasher (Black Ocean 2017). A professor in the University of Arizona's MFA Program in Creative Writing, he is the founding editor of The Volta, a journal of poetry, and Letter Machine Editions, a small press that publishes Fred Moten, Alice Notley, Brandon Shimoda, John Yau, and many others. He lives with the writer Lisa Wells in Tucson and Seattle.

Walonda Williams | Piper Writers Studio Instructor; Desert Nights, Rising Stars Moderator
Proud to be a Phoenix resident for five years, Walonda Williams hails from Detroit, Michigan, where she graduated with a BFA in theater from Wayne State University. Williams recently completed her MBA, specializing in project management, from Strayer University. Through flash memoir, poetry, short stories and staged-plays, Williams provides an otherworldly perspective and employs organic process, unleashing the marginalized voice. She trusts that transformative writing can shift painful pasts into dynamic action.

Saidah Wilson | Piper Student Mentee
Elliot Rose Winter | Desert Nights, Rising Stars MFA Presenter
Elliot Rose Winter is a queer, trans, nonbinary poet originally from New Jersey, currently living in Tempe, AZ. They are an MFA candidate at Arizona State University, and a recipient of a Fellowship from the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.

Kirk Wisland | Desert Nights, Rising Stars Fellow
Kirk Wisland is a Ph.D. Candidate in Creative Writing at Ohio University. His essay collection, The Melancholy of Falling Men, was selected by Roxane Gay as the winner of the 2015 Iron Horse
Chapbook Contest. His work can also be found in *Brevity, The Diagram, Proximity, The Normal School, Essay Daily, Terrain.org, Electric Literature*, and *Paper Darts*. Wisland lives in Tucson, where he teaches Composition and Creative Writing at the University of Arizona.

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**Ofelia Zepeda | Distinguished Visiting Writer**

A member of the Tohono O’odham (formerly Papago) Nation, Ofelia Zepeda grew up in Stanfield, Arizona. She earned a BA, an MA, and a PhD in linguistics from the University of Arizona. She is the author of a grammar of the Tohono O’odham language, *A Papago Grammar* (1983). Zepeda’s poetry collections include *Ocean Power: Poems from the Desert* (1995) and *Jewed’l-hoi/Earth Movements, O’Odham Poems* (1996). Zepeda was honored with a MacArthur Fellowship (1999) for her contributions as a poet, linguist, and cultural preservationist. She received a grant from the Endangered Language Fund for her work on the Tohono O’odham Dictionary Project. Zepeda has been a professor of linguistics and director of the American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona, as well as director of the American Indian Language Development Institute. She edits *Sun Tracks*, a book series devoted to publishing work by Native American artists and writers, at the University of Arizona Press.
Established in 2003 with a gift from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is a non-academic university center dedicated to offering talks, readings, classes, workshops, and other literary events and programs for the larger community.

As a center, we aspire to be a point of reference in people’s lives—a way of orienting oneself in relationship to others, of finding a direction—by creating moments of individual, social, and cultural significance around creative writing and contemporary literature.

To learn more about who we are and what we do, visit our website at http://piper.asu.edu