

# Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts Newsletter

## Farewell to the 2010 Graduates

As the year draws to a close we would like to congratulate all of our graduates and future graduates for their hard work and dedication.

We thank you all for choosing our program. We wish only the best for you as you move forward in your lives and careers.

It has been a wonderful pleasure to work with each of you. Every student has given a unique part of themselves to the program, and we can honestly say that our program has grown because of your contributions.

We are happy to announce that 15 students have advanced to candidacy and are scheduled to graduate in June or graduated Winter 2010.

Matthew Allen—Screenwriting  
Danielle Baron—Fiction  
Bonnie Bolling—Poetry  
**(Winter Graduate)**  
Ching-In Chen—Poetry  
Holly Gaglio—Fiction  
Shannon Jacobson—Playwriting  
**(Winter Graduate)**  
Aviva Kasowski—Screenwriting  
Eva Konstantopoulos—Fiction  
David Lopez—Screenwriting  
Bala Rajasekharuni—Screenwriting  
Judy Soo Hoo—Fiction  
Jie Tian—Poetry  
Angela Thomson-Brenchley—Fiction  
Victoria Tulacro—Fiction  
V. Lazaro Zamora—Screenwriting

Commencement will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. More detailed information can be found at <http://commencement.ucr.edu/chass2.html>



Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

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May 21, 2010

*Adrienne's Corner:*  
*Be positive in your relationship with life.*

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## Snippets: A Second Year Reading

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the second-year students at the final reading. We would especially like to thank Deja Gworek, Kaitlin Manry, and Melissa Harkness for all of their hard work in

organizing this great event.

The reading was a great and wonderful success. We were privileged to witness our graduating students at their finest.

It was also a night of ac-

colades. The winners of the Squaw Valley scholarships were announced and are listed below.

V. Lazaro Zamora—Nonfiction  
Holly Gaglio—Fiction  
Jie Tian—Poetry

## Student and Alumni Achievements

**Ching-In Chen & Neil Aitken** served as emcees for the [Kundiman Reading & Salon Celebrating Asian American Poetry](#) in April of this year. **Ngoc Luu** also read at this event.

**Bala Rajasekharuni** conducted the Day of the Arts theatre workshop on April 30th.

**Vicki Barras Tulacro** has been selected to attend the 2010 [Tin House](#) Summer Workshop, where she'll be working closely with Joy Williams. She was also selected as the Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year for the Department of Creative Writing.

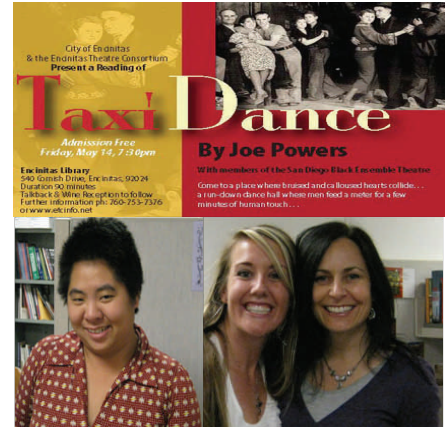
**Eric Montgomery** was also selected as the Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year for the Department of Theatre.

**Angela Thomson-Brenchley** was invited to join the annual Mt. San Antonio College Writers' Week as a workshop presenter.

**Deanne Stillman and Rebecca O'Connor** read from [No Place for a Puritan](#) at Skylight Books along with author Ruth Nolan earlier this month.

**Joe Powers** presented "[Taxi Dance](#)" with the members of the San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Vanessa Hua** reviewed "I Hotel" by Tei Yamashita in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) this month.



## Faculty Achievements

**Michael Jayme** was featured in [Writers Salvador Plascencia and Michael Jaime-Becerra share a city and common inspiration: El Monte](#) in the *LA Times* article April 25, 2010.

**Juan Felipe Herrera** hosted the [23rd Annual Tomas Rivera Conference](#) which focused on Latino health. Dr. Estela Diesfeld was the keynote speaker.

**Chris Abani's** new book [Sanctificum](#) is quoted in the May/June issue of *Poets & Writers* in the "New and Noteworthy Books" section. He also hosted a poetry reading on campus earlier this month.

**Susan Straight** published "[In multiracial America, the Census Puts us in a Box](#)" in *The Washington Post*; her story "Dear Mr. Atende" was just published in [The Normal School](#); an essay, "Where You From?" appeared in [The Blackwell Companions to American History: A Companion to Los Angeles](#).

Tom Lutz was featured in *LA Weekly*, "[Tom Lutz: Keeper of the Written Word](#)" earlier this month for his work with the *LA Review of Books*.

**Reza Aslan** gave a reading of *How to Win a Cosmic War* on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This event was in

conjunction with Religious Studies. He was also featured in the *Australian* "[In the Throes of Reform](#)".

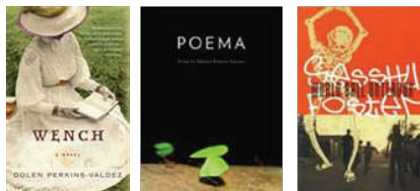
**Stu Krieger** was featured with John Landau in "[Avatar producer predicts big future for 3D](#)" in the *Press Enterprise*.

**Chuck Evered's** play "[Class](#)" was reviewed in the *New York Times*. He also received tenure this month.

## Visitors in the Month of May



The Department of Creative Writing hosted Dolen Perkins-Valdez. She gave a very well-received reading of her first novel, *Wench: A Novel*.



[Wench: A Novel](#)—Dolen Perkins-Valdez  
[Poema](#)—Maurice Kilwein-Guevara  
[Word Ball Notebook](#)—Sesshu Foster



The Department Creative of Writing along with the Tomas Rivera Endowment also hosted Maurice Kilwein-Guevara and Sesshu Foster as they gave a poetry reading.

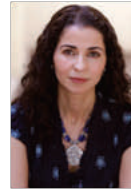
## Changing Faces for 2010-2011



Professor Abani will complete his term as director of the MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts Program at the end of this year. His guidance and understanding has been much appreciated. He will continue to teach both creative writing undergraduate and graduate classes.



Professor Russin will assume responsibilities of the directorship of the MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts Program for the upcoming academic year. He has previously served as the advisor for the theatre component of the program and looks forward to continuing the program's growth and success.



Professor Lalami has completed her term as advisor for the creative writing component of the program. She brought a fresh and exciting perspective to the administrative component of the program. She will continue to teach both undergraduate and graduate creative writing classes.



Professor Winer will be assuming responsibilities as the advisor for the creative writing component of the program. He has served as both director and graduate advisor. He also serves as the program coordinator for the Gluck Fellows. He looks forward to, once again, guiding graduate students through their MFA journey.

## Memories of 2010

This sounds really corny, but I must. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Juan Felipe has been gracious enough to share a couple of shots from his graduate poetry class. Without any further adieu, here are the pictures and you can put as many words to them as you like.





# Snippets

