



Dear Friends of the Kelly Writers House,

Summertime at KWH is typically dreamy. We mull over the coming year and lovingly plan programs to fill our calendar. Interns settle into research and writing projects that sprawl across the summer months. We clean up mailing lists, tidy the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, and restock all supplies with an eye toward fall. The pace is leisurely, the projects long and slow.

Summer 2014 is radically different. On May 20, 2014, just after Penn's graduation (when we celebrated a record number of students at our Senior Capstone event), we broke ground on the **Kelly Family Annex**, a two-story addition that will house an airy, second-floor **Student Projects Room** and a state-of-the-art digital recording lab called the **Freddy Wexler Studio**. The construction project has allowed us to think holistically about how we use the house and, as a result, we've abandoned our typical hot weather pace for a total house renewal. The renovation is extensive (and loud!): we're upgrading offices, digging up chilled water pipes, rigging up the garden with electricity for outdoor performances, and creating a brand new classroom called the **Zises Seminar Room**. We couldn't be more excited.

A project this big requires many partners, and in true KWH fashion, we've involved community members at every step. **Harris Steinberg**, who designed the original

renovation of Writers House in 1997, has guided the KWH House Committee in an organic planning process to develop the Kelly Family Annex. Through Harris, we connected with architects **Michael Schade** and **Olivia Tarricone**, who designed the Annex to integrate seamlessly into the old Tudor-style cottage (no small feat!). A crackerjack tech team including **Zach Carduner** (C'13), **Chris Martin**, and **Steve McLaughlin** (C'08) helped envision the Wexler Studio as a student-friendly digital recording playground, chock-full of equipment ready for innovative experiments in sound. **Andrew Beal**, our financial coordinator and go-to fix-it-man, was mastermind of everything behind the scenes, managing construction details and keeping everyone calm despite the chaos and dust. A visionary group of Penn parents and alumni — **Gary and Nina Wexler**, **Jay and Nancy Zises**, an **anonymous donor**, and **Paul and Nancy Kelly** — joined forces to fund the project; their generosity will help usher in our next decade of student-led innovation.

Most things at KWH work this way: dedicated people pool their resources to accomplish an ambitious goal. In the pages of this magazine you'll read about some of these people and projects — though a 28 page booklet can't quite capture everything.

On pages 12–13 you'll read about the sixteenth year of the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program, with a focus on the work of the Fellows Seminar, a unique course that enables young writers and writer-critics to have sustained contact with authors of great accomplishment. On pages 14–15, you'll learn about our unparalleled RealArts@Penn project, which connects undergraduates to the business of art and culture beyond the university. Pages 16–17 detail our outreach efforts, the work we do to find talented young writers and bring them to Penn. And throughout these pages you'll meet people who are doing extraordinary things — often with help from their colleagues and friends.

We are grateful to all of the people who help make such projects possible, including the Office of the Provost, alumni, students, faculty, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world.

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, we thank you for everything you bring to this community!

Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English

Jessica Lowenthal
Director



THE WRITERS HOUSE RUNS ON STUDENT POWER.

PEOPLE THAT HELP MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN:

Al Filreis, Faculty Director
Jessica Lowenthal (GAS'06), Director
Lily Applebaum (C'12), Assistant to the Faculty Director
Andrew Beal, Financial Coordinator
Amelia Bentley, *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant
Julia Bloch (GAS'11), Associate Director of Digital Projects
Arielle Brousse (C'07, SPP'12), Assistant Director for Development
Zach Carduner (C'13), Technology Assistant
Emily Harnett (C'13), Research Assistant
Allison Harris, PoemTalk Editor
Michael S. Hennessey, Editor, PennSound and *Jacket2*
Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), Associate Director of Recruitment
Alli Katz, Program Coordinator
Sharon Margolis, PennSound Associate Editor
Christopher J. Martin, Director of Technology
Steve McLaughlin (C'08), PennSound Senior Editor
Katie Price (GAS'14), Administrative Assistant
Ana Schwartz (GAS'14), Program Associate
Peter Schwarz (CGS'04, LPS'08), Administrative Assistant
Henry Steinberg (C'13), Robinson Press Director
Anna Zalokostas, PennSound Associate Editor

ENERGETIC UNDERGRADUATE STAFF and volunteers make it possible for us to do the work of an organization five times our size. As participant-planners, students do everything here — from bookkeeping to online ballyhoo. Their ideas keep us hopping; their energy makes it all possible.

Members of the Writers House Planning Committee (also known as “the Hub”) meet informally all the time to discuss writing and share their ideas. They gather around the old green table in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen to cook up projects, such as the newly minted Writing About TV series, which developed this year out of long conversations about favorite TV shows. Or they tweet at all hours to hash out the latest trends in journalism, until an idea forms the kernel of a new print publication or blog. Or they huddle in the Pub Room, trading favorite stories and books, and dreaming up ways to get others involved at KWH.

Once a month the Hub convenes in the Arts Café to toss around ideas for potential projects and hammer out the details for annual events. At one such meeting this year we planned our annual 7-up program (in which

seven people speak for seven minutes each about a shared topic). When someone pitched the idea of an all-pound-cake reception, that clinched it for many of us and 7-up on Pound edged out 7-up on Net in the final tally. From there we brainstormed sub-topics and speakers to supplement the now-necessary pound cake. **Bob Perelman** on Ezra Pound? **Madeleine Wattenbarger** (C'16) on the #hashtag? **Janelle McDermoth** (C'14) on weights and measures? Later on the listserv, we argued about where in Philadelphia to buy the best pound cake. **Kristen Martin** (C'12) made a strong case for Entenmann's All Butter Loaf Cake — but **JM Conway** (C'15) won out with his bid for Stock's Bakery in Kensington (we owe thanks to JM's parents who provided our 7-up reception with several of Stock's legendary loaves).

Subcommittees of the Hub take on special assignments. **Jess Bergman** (C'14) led the planning of this year's marathon reading and selected Toni Morrison's *Jazz* for the daylong event. **Donald Antenen** (C'15) and **Alli Katz** convened an ongoing committee to discuss fiction and fiction writers, particularly up-and-coming short story writers and experimental

novelists. After much debate, the fiction committee agreed to invite two fantastic young writers to Writers House for readings and conversation: **Roxane Gay** and **Leigh Stein**, who visited in the spring.

Several groups led by undergrads meet at Writers House to explore subgenres and specialized writing interests. This year, **Devon O'Connor** (W'17) organized a weekly jam session for aspiring songwriters to test out their tunes. **Yessi Gutierrez** (C'14) and **Kathy Cañeba** (NU'14) convened a book club to read contemporary fiction. **Lauren Shapiro** (C'16) and **Alex Ortega** (C'15) led an extracurricular poetry workshop that welcomed all kinds of poetic writing and performance. **Alex Travis** (C'15) and **Georgio Legerme** (C'15) encouraged students to write full-length novels. **Gina DeCagna** (C'16) and **Alina Grabowski** (C'16) created multiple opportunities for visual artists and writers to collaborate.

Working this way — through committees, through conversations, through small group meetings and gatherings — ensures that KWH projects and programs develop directly out of the interests of our Hub members. Students help shape an always-evolving, dynamic literary landscape that includes all kinds of writing practices.

And students do the heavy lifting required to make it all happen by participating in Writers House administration at every level.

We depend on our student staff for digital editing of our online poetry materials at *Jacket2* and PennSound. At *J2*, co-editor **Julia Bloch** (GAS'11) leads a stalwart team of student editorial assistants in the traditional crafts of copyediting and proofreading. From Julia students learn how to polish text using the *Chicago Manual of Style*; in the process they master the finer points of usage, such as the proper treatment of an appositive and when to wield an em dash. They also navigate the latest publishing platforms, from Adobe Creative Suite to Drupal. At PennSound, students digitize and edit poetry recordings, often from old cassette tapes, such as the historic Wednesdays @ 4 poetry series out of SUNY-Buffalo, recorded by **Charles Bernstein**, mostly on a Sony Walkman Pro.

Other students assist our financial coordinator **Andrew Beal** and development director **Arielle Brousse** in all the work required to keep our accounting and fundraising on track: database maintenance, fundraising appeals, expenditure tracking, monthly account reconciliation, and special event planning. KWH program coordinator **Alli Katz** manages the small army of students who staff our events and keep the house running smoothly. They prep receptions, engineer audio and video recordings, maintain the website, design PR materials, and take care of all the set up and cleanup required to welcome hundreds of people into the KWH each week.

Jess Bergman (C'14), Social Media Coordinator
Camara Brown (C'17), Program Assistant
Juan Cabrera (C'17), Web Team Trainee
Jenny Chen (C'14), Sustainability Coordinator
Santiago Cortes (W'16), Purchasing Librarian
Andie Davidson (C'15), Archivist
Gina DeCagna (C'16), *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant
Josie Elias (C'14), Recruitment Assistant
Lauren Feiner (C'17), AV Specialist
Victoria Ford (C'15), Program Assistant
Ayla Fudala (C'16), Chief Decorator
Kristie Gadson (C'15), Program Assistant
Kate Herzlin (C'14), Outreach Coordinator
Cindia Huang (C'17), Financial Assistant
Diamond Irwin (C'15), Program Assistant
Nadia Laher (C'15), Purchasing Librarian
Dylan Leahy (C'16), Program Assistant
Gwendolyn Lweis (C'14), Program Assistant
Mariah Macias (C'17), *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant
Janelle McDermoth (C'14), Program Assistant
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Jack Nessman (C'15), Webmaster
Kenna O'Rourke (C'15), Editorial Assistant
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Erin Peraza (C'14), Purchasing Librarian
Maura Reilly-Ulmanek (C'17), PennSound Technician
Julia Schwartz (C'15), Program Assistant
Virginia Seymour (C'16), Calendar Designer
Naomi Shavin (C'14), *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant
Ashley Stinnett (C'17), Development Assistant
Connie Yu (C'17), Special Projects Assistant
Allison Wattenbarger (C'14), Outreach Coordinator
Madeleine Wattenbarger (C'16), Program Assistant
Hannah White (C'14), Archivist



HIGHLIGHTS



THE SCIENCE OF IMAGINARY SOLUTIONS

Inspired by pataphysics (the absurdist “science of imaginary solutions” invented by French symbolist writer Alfred Jarry over a century ago), a group of contemporary writers and artists joined us for Pataphysical Arts Night to present their poetry, music, and digital experiments. Composer and multimedia artist **DJ Spooky** Skyped in to describe how Jarry’s philosophy influenced his Ice Music Project, a multi-genre piece created using the sights and sounds of Antarctica: melting ice, breaching whales, and shifting winds. Poets **Craig Dworkin**, **Judith Goldman**, and **Michelle Taransky** read works that challenged traditional poetic form and asked us to rethink topics as diverse as the art of definition, Shakespeare’s sonnets, and the role of testimony in relation to traumatic events. Media artist **Christopher Vandegrift** showed a video of machine misreadings of VHS tape, documenting how auditory data can be mistaken for visual data, resulting in

images made from sound. And throughout the evening, **Andrew Hugill** played selections from his interactive online opera *The Imaginary Voyage*, an adaptation of a fictional voyage in Jarry’s novel, *Exploits and Opinions*. Pataphysical Arts Night was part of Philadelphia à la Pataphysique, a ten-day arts festival masterfully organized by pataphysician **Katie Price** (GAS’14), featuring talks, readings, exhibitions, and film screenings at venues across the city.

POETRY FOR ALL

Once again Faculty Director **Al Filreis** offered Modern and Contemporary American Poetry (lovingly known as ModPo) as a free, noncredit, massive open online course, welcoming upwards of 38,000 students to read and discuss poetry at Coursera.org. Thousands of students were completely new — to poetry, to the English language, to the Writers House — and others joined as ModPo alumni to reunite with Al and the gang (returning TAs included **Lily Applebaum** C’12, **Ali Castleman** C’13, **Amaris**

Cuchanski C’12, **Emily Harnett** C’13, **Kristen Martin** C’11, **Steve McLaughlin** C’08, **Max McKenna** C’10, **Dave Poplar**, **Anna Strong** C’13, and **Jason Zuzga** GAS’15). ModPo 2013 featured weekly interactive webcasts broadcast on YouTube from the Arts Café, including a live discussion of Gertrude Stein’s *Tender Buttons* with **Bob Perelman**, **Rachel Blau DuPlessis**, and **Ron Silliman**, and a forum on conceptual writing with **Mike Magee** (GAS’99) **Tracie Morris**, and **Kenneth Goldsmith**. ModPo regulars such as **Ray Maxwell** and **Dan Bergmann** could often be found at live ModPo events, which also welcomed newcomers like **Eleanor Smagarinsky**, who came all the way from Australia, and an entire class of high schoolers who used ModPo in their classroom. ModPoers showed their generosity to the Writers House by contributing to our Student Recruitment Fund and our Digital Poetries Fund, demonstrating the extraordinary sense of community fostered by our online experiment, which has brought so many far-flung participants together.



KERRY PRIZE PANEL: LOCALLY GROWN

Kenna O'Rourke (C'15) was awarded the 2013–14 Kerry Prize to explore the idea of the “local” — local politics, local art, local music, local food — and what it means for Philadelphians. Why is urban America obsessed with locally sourced goods? How do public arts projects engage local communities? Who makes the best Philly cheesesteak? To hash this all out, Kenna organized a public conversation with some of Philadelphia's own local legends: **Jane Golden**, director of the Mural Arts Program; **Daniel Denvir**, *City Paper* reporter; **Grace Ambrose** (C'12), DIY PHL founder; and **Ann Karlen**, director of Fair Food Philly. Panelists opined on the regional and the global, the Philadelphia school system, the farm-to-table movement, and alternatives to the major cheesesteak players. Kenna invited everyone to name little-known facts about Philly and panelists responded by praising Philadelphia as a magnificent city, with good food, great dive bars, friendly neighbors,

affordable housing, and an unrivaled parks system. The Philly lovefest continued over a post-program reception featuring some of the region's finest farm staples, including fancy cheese, hummus, Asian pear spread, raw honey, and tofu, all of which was gone in a flash. Kenna's panel was a perfect Kerry Prize program, which was established to honor the literary communitarianism of our first director, **Kerry Sherin Wright**.

CHERYL J. FAMILY FICTION READING: ROXANE GAY

Beguiled by the UPS deliveryman who makes near-daily deliveries to her home, fiction writer and essayist **Roxane Gay** found the possibility of (ardent, hot-blooded) love. Or so she wrote in a hilarious essay about package deliveries, a bit of levity she read before diving in to her powerful first novel, *An Untamed State*, the story of an American-born woman who is kidnapped while visiting family in Port-au-Prince. “My parents are from Haiti,” Gay said,

introducing us to the work. “I was always struck by what a beautiful country it was and what a wonderful time we had there. But the older I got the more I realized not everyone gets to have a wonderful time when they're in Haiti. And I started to see more of the class divisions. I started to realize that some people have what many people don't.” Gay is known both as a sharp, gifted essayist (her collection *Bad Feminist* was also released this summer and is already being called an “essential text”) and a compelling fiction writer, and she charmed us with her wit and her moving prose. At dinner after the event, we continued to mull over all the things Gay's writing makes us think about: class, culture, making deliveries — even *Game of Thrones* and Twitter. Students of **Naomi Jackson**, our 2013–14 ArtsEdge Resident, had special seats at the dinner table, along with **Donald Antenen** (C'15), who led the KWH Fiction Committee in selecting Gay as this year's Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program reader. **Allison Wattenbarger** (C'14) made delicious brownies to end the meal on an especially sweet note.



LIVE AT THE WRITERS HOUSE, WXPB 88.5 FM

The 2013–2014 season of our radio show **LIVE at the Kelly Writers House** allowed us to showcase some of Philadelphia's most exciting writers and musicians, with shows featuring youth poets, memoirists, war veterans, journalists, singer-songwriters, and other local talents. The series kicked off with a landmark 100th episode, a reunion show featuring

former show producers **Thomas Devaney** and **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06) along with beloved KWH staff alumnus **John Carroll** (C'05). A post-recording photo captured on-air LIVE host **Michaela Majoun** and all producers past and present, including current KWH program coordinator and LIVE producer **Alli Katz** brandishing a commemorative broadside letterpressed by

Henry Steinberg (C'13). The First Person Arts Festival preview episode delivered a sneak peek of work by local memoirists, with a standout performance by Penn Creative Writing faculty member **Beth Kephart** (C'82), who read from her book *Handling the Truth*, a lyrical memoir-writing guide. Poets from the Principal Hand series, organized by the incomparable **Steve McLaughlin** (C'08), took over the airwaves with conceptual works about labor, power, sexuality, and more — some heavy and dark work, but some funny, too. Another show celebrated young and emerging writers, including **Siduri Beckman**, Philadelphia's 2013 youth poet laureate, who read a poem about Philadelphia's troubled public schools. We collaborated with the One Book, One Philadelphia program to present work by members of Warrior Writers, a community of military veterans, service members, artists, allies, civilians, and healers dedicated to creativity and wellness. The final set of the year featured smart talk about music by six music journalists — with singer-songwriter **Janelle McDermoth** (C'14) making her stunning radio debut.

GENDER, ACTIVISM, WRITING, ART

This year marked the fourth year of Feminism/s, our interdisciplinary series for programming on gender, activism, writing, art, and feminism in all of its multiplicities. The series kicked off with a boisterous show by performance artist **Wes Perry**, who blended elements of theater, drag, and parody into one of our most entertaining events yet, described by series co-curator **Josh Herren** (C'13) as “jaw-dropping.” Writer and popular *Racialicious* blogger **Andrea Plaid** visited later in the fall semester to explore the intersections of activism, racial identity, and feminism. In February, series co-curator **Arielle Pades** (C'14) hosted her dream program: a panel discussion about sex in journalism with sex writers, editors, and a media scholar of college sex columns. (“The Screwtokenizer,” Arielle’s own popular sex column in the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, is a model for the genre.) To cap off the semester, Arielle and Josh were thrilled to bring back **Karen Finley**, who last joined

us as a Writers House Fellow in 2012. Finley performed her breathtaking work “Written in Sand,” a multi-genre piece that remixes some of her writing about AIDS from the ’80s with musical compositions from the period, many written by victims of the disease. Jazz musician **Paul Nebenzahl** accompanied on iPad, flute, and upright piano (which, thankfully, fit through the front door!).

BOOKS WE LOVE

The Sensible Nonsense Project founded by **Arielle Brousse** (C'07, SPP'12) encourages us to celebrate the lasting impact of our favorite children's books. At a gathering this spring, **Juan Cabrera** (C'17) brought his dog-eared copy of *One Teddy Bear Is Enough!* and described how the book taught him to be generous. **Andie Davidson** (C'15) enumerated the ways in which *The Phantom Tollbooth* (by Penn alum Norton Juster, class of 1952!) inspired her love of words. **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), who was

never actually a babysitter, shared a story about her obsessive love for *The Baby-Sitters Club* books. **Ana Schwartz** (GAS'14) recalled reading and rereading Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* as a girl, and the way she romanticized the heroine's orphanhood as only a child can. **Erin Peraza** (C'14) warmed our hearts by speaking about the kindred spirit she found in *Harry the Dirty Dog*. **Andrew Panebianco** singled out deceptively simple lines from *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Pooh: “Is that you?” Rabbit: “Let's pretend it isn't, and see what happens”) as the most perfect encapsulation of the writer's life he's ever read. And **Meg Pendoley** (C'16) described how *Miss Rumphius* helped shape her philosophy on life. “The book makes a promise,” Meg said, “that as long as I do something, however small, to make the world more beautiful, my life will mean something.” Speakers and audience members continued to share memories of favorite books over finger foods inspired by after-school snacks — including goldfish crackers and ants-on-a-log.

ALUMNI VISITORS SERIES

Marc Lapadula (C'83) led a choose-your-own-adventure-style workshop for aspiring screenwriters: when a film clip stops, what happens next? Audience responses shaped a dynamic discussion about how scripts work.

Trisha Low (C'11), “just another feminist, confessional writer trying to find a good way to deal with all her literary dads,” walloped us with poems from her first book, *The Compleat Purge*.



THAT WRITERS HOUSE SOUND

Spontaneous singalongs in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, rock stars in the in the Arts Café, karaoke in the living room, singer-songwriters jamming upstairs — music is everywhere at the Kelly Writers House. We celebrated Penn’s Year of Sound, the provost’s theme for the year, with plenty of noise.

ALAN LIGHT, who LITERALLY wrote the book on Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” led audiophiles in a rich and nuanced exploration of how Cohen’s obscure song became an international anthem. In honor of Light’s visit, student musicians **Devon O’Connor** (W’17), **Isaac Silber** (C’15), and **Annie Nelson** (C’15) contributed to the evolving history of the song by playing their own (haunting, incredible) renditions.

Music journalist **Rob Sheffield** read from his pop culture chronicle *Turn Around Bright Eyes: The Rituals of Love and Karaoke* and inspired a post-reading karaoke party that had students and others belting out favorite songs in the living room. **Frida Garza** (C’14), **Ari Cohen** (C’14), and **Naomi Shavin** (C’14) impressed Sheffield with their better-than-Destiny’s-Child rendition of “Crazy Love.” And who needs Blondie when you have **Gabriel Ojeda-Sague** (C’16) and **Dylan Leahy** (C’16) singing “Heart of Glass”?

Students took the lead on several music-driven projects. **Katie Behrman** (C’15) and

Aelita Parker (C’14) convened a symposium on Kanye West, giving the KWH community a chance to dig deep into pop culture. Members of the singer-songwriter group FLAM, organized by the extraordinary **Devon O’Connor** (W’17), met on Saturday afternoons to workshop songs and jam together. **Sarah Lindstedt** (C’15) capped her independent study on songwriting with a showcase of her work, performed in the Arts Café for a crowd of friends and music lovers.

Our eighth annual Blutt Singer-Songwriter Symposium featured Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee **Graham Nash** (of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young), who opened up about *everything* — including the time John Lennon stole his guitar. We were especially enthralled by his description of the music of everyday noise. “I heard music from an early age,” said Nash, “horses and carts and women calling their children to come and get dinner — just the general music of life. I can hear it right now. I mean listen to the air conditioner.”

Meredith Stiehm (C’90), creator of the hit crime drama *Cold Case* and the FX thriller *The Bridge*, chatted with student screenwriters about what it’s like to write and produce great TV.

A shoptalk on journalism and new media jobs co-sponsored by the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize and the *Daily Pennsylvanian* featured an all-star line up of alumni writers: **Stephen Fried** (C’79), **Maria Popova** (C’07), **Melody Joy Kramer** (C’06), and **Joel Siegel** (C’79).

Katie Sanders (C’12), who works at *Glamour*, shared advice about landing that first out-of-college writing gig.

PENN PLAYS FELLOWSHIP

Kate Herzlin (C'14) was the inaugural winner of the Penn Plays Fellowship, an award co-sponsored by Penn's Theatre Arts Program. At the heart of the Penn Plays project is a process-based development of the winning playscript guided by faculty and professional writers and culminating in a staged production at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Kate won for *Princess*, a modern fairytale that offers striking commentary on women's reproductive rights and the tension between contemporary feminism and social tradition.

Many people were involved in bringing *Princess* to the stage. Mentor playwright **Jackie Goldfinger** worked with Kate on multiple drafts of the script. Theater artist and educator **Suzanna Berger** (C'02) directed the staged production, while **Thalia Stanberry** (C'15), **Aliyah Harris** (C'16), and **Anthony Baruffi** brought the sounds and sights of the text to the stage with their smart designs. Actors **Nina Friend** (C'16), **Alexis Van Eyken** (C'14), **Jesse Franklin** (C'14), **Joseph Egozi** (C'14), and **Miguel Rivera-Lanas** (C'17) lent their talents and their intellects to the entire development process. And stage manager **Lynette Ashaba**

(C'17) kept the rehearsals and show running smoothly, while **Eric Barrata**, associate director of Penn's Theatre Arts Program, coordinated all production aspects of the play.

The rehearsal and development process of *Princess* was particularly illuminating for Kate. "All of the artists involved made me a better writer," Kate said, "and made my dreams for this play come true."



TV families. **Jess Bergman** (C'14), **Kathy DeMarco** (C'88, W'88), **Josie Elias** (C'14), **Jim English**, **Emily Harnett** (C'13), **Ross Karlan** (C'14), **Elliott Sharp**, and **Lance Wahlert** (GAS'11) expounded on the classic appeal of *The Brady Bunch*, the queerness of *The Golden Girls*, and the familial perversions of *Twin Peaks* and *Broadchurch*. In a predictable plot twist, **Alli Katz** and crew served up a post-event reception on TV-dinner trays with meatloaf, tater tots, and buttered peas.

FEMINIST HISTORY MAKER

Our Bernheimer Symposium, which was established in memory of beloved Comparative Literature professor **Charles Bernheimer**, featured a discussion with award-winning journalist **Lynn Povich**, whose bold career has helped pave the way for female journalists. To start the conversation, Povich read from her book *The Good Girls Revolt*, a chronicle of her groundbreaking sex-discrimination lawsuit against *Newsweek* magazine in 1970. Povich spoke candidly with us about the lawsuit, as well as her storied career as the first female senior editor in *Newsweek's* history, as editor in chief of *Working Woman*, and as someone who sees the challenges that women in journalism still face to this day. Our student journalists were grateful for such honesty and asked plenty of questions, which Povich fielded with generosity and grace. Co-curator of our Feminism/s series **Arielle Pardes** (C'14), who introduced the event and looks to Povich as a feminist icon, was especially thrilled to discuss the history and future of women in journalism.

PENN POETS ELECTRIFY THE POETRY SCENE

The Body Electric, a student-led collective of poets founded by **Lauren Shapiro** (C'16) and **Alex Ortega** (C'15), meets at KWH every Thursday night to exchange writing, collaborate on new work, and, in true Writers House fashion, eat pancakes (and other delicious snacks). As poetry evangelists, members of The Body Electric kept busy with special campus campaigns: they decorated a tree in front of KWH with ornaments made from favorite poems — a "poe-TREE" to greet visitors — and they blanketed the campus with love poems for Valentine's Day. Group members presented their own works as well: **Gabe Ferrante** (C'17) and **Stacy Burkhalter** (C'14) performed at the Philly Pigeon poetry slams, each qualifying for the April All-Star Round, and several Body Electric poets read poems at an electrifying end-of-year event in the Arts Café.

WRITING ABOUT TV

Out of enthusiastic, informal, and caffeine-fueled analyses of TV episodes by members of our Planning Committee, we developed a new programming series. The Writing About TV series has allowed us to carve out a place here at KWH for treating television as a serious and legitimate art form, and to feature professional TV critics and recappers, as well as members of our own community who love to ruminate on favorite shows. For our first Writing About TV event, **Jess Bergman** (C'14) moderated a discussion about the theory and practice of television criticism with two journalists deeply engaged in it: **Jessica Goldstein** (C'11), who recaps shows for *Vulture* (the online pop culture companion to *New York Magazine*), and **Molly Eichel**, who recaps shows for *The A.V. Club*. The next event in the series — Writing About TV: The Family — featured short talks about iconic or unusual

Dynamic father-daughter duo **Howard Fineman** (of *Huffington Post* and MSNBC) and **Meredith Fineman** (C'09, of FinePoint Digital PR) led a freewheeling discussion about the past and future of journalism.

Feminist art and music curator **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) met with students over lunch to discuss arts activism and how to get involved in a local DIY punk scene.

Jeremy Greenfield (C'04), editorial director of Digital Book World, gave a fascinating presentation about creativity and collaboration in the digital age.



OUR YEAR IN NONFICTION PROGRAMMING

SINCE 2011, WHEN **MAURY POVICH** (C'62) AND **CONNIE CHUNG** established an extraordinary fund to support all journalism programming at KWH, we've steadily increased our roster of visiting journalists each year. And the interest in journalism expressed by Penn students, faculty, and other Writers House community members has surged to match.

A crowd spilled into the living room and squeezed into the Karlan Family Alcove when we hosted **Daniel Jones**, editor of the *New York Times* "Modern Love" column, a program that many described as their favorite of the year. Our panel discussion of sex in journalism was nearly as popular and just as insightful: a panel of journalists and editors moderated by phenom **Arielle Pardes** (C'14) explored the importance of writing about sex (including gender, health, education, relationships, and more), especially on college campuses.

Penn Creative Writing faculty used the Povich Fund to invite some of their favorite writers. **Paul Hendrickson** led a discussion with *Esquire* feature writer **Tom Junod**, whose stories have touched on everything from the latest in cancer research to the ever-controversial photo of the 9/11 "Falling Man." **Julia Bloch** spoke with **Anna Holmes**, founder of the landmark site *Jezebel*, about pop culture, feminism, celebrity, and politics. **Beth Kephart** (C'82) and **Avery Rome** hosted a session with **Michael Sokolove**, author of *Drama High*, an incredible true story of the power of theater. **Al Filreis** moderated a lively discussion about the past and future of journalism with **Howard Fineman**, of *Huffington Post* and MSNBC, and **Meredith Fineman** (C'09), founder of Finepoint Digital PR. Between them, **Dick Polman** and **Anthony DeCurtis** hosted more than a dozen journalists, critics, and nonfiction

writers, including **Ada Calhoun**, **Ursula Cary**, **Nate Chinen** (C'97), **Robert Costa**, **Lisa DePaulo** (C'82), **Sabrina Erdeley** (C'94), **Bob Ford**, **Jessica Goldstein**, **Matt Katz**, **Alan Light**, **Ashley Parker** (C'05), **Hillary Reinsberg** (C'11), and **Steve Volk**.

We're proud that so many of our visiting journalists were alumni, many of whom visited to share (good) news about job prospects in the field. A panel discussion on careers in journalism and new media, co-sponsored by the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize committee and the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and featuring Penn alumni **Stephen Fried** (C'79), **Joel Siegel** (C'79), **Maria Popova** (C'07), and **Melody Joy Kramer** (C'06), had especially promising advice for our aspiring journalists: though the field is rapidly evolving with fresh modes and outlets for delivering news, there is a steady and real need for journalistic writing. The advice: take advantage of the vast opportunities at Penn — and keep writing!

Students seeking advice about post-college writing careers had plenty of opportunities to interact with alumni mentors such as journalist **Galina Espinoza** (C'91), screenwriter **Stuart Gibbs** (C'91), sportswriter **Andrea Kremer** (C'80), and children's book publisher **Julie Merberg** (C'88).

Lindsey Palmer (C'05) read from her debut novel *Pretty in Ink*, a fresh and funny insider's look at magazine culture based on her years of experience working at women's magazines.

CREATIVE VENTURES



CREATIVE VENTURES encourages faculty and students to explore innovative modes of teaching and learning. At its core, Creative Ventures emphasizes innovation, interdisciplinarity, entrepreneurial creativity, and student initiative, by seeking out and supporting cutting-edge ideas.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Isaac Kaplan (C'15) organized the second installment of his Writing About Art project. Artists, critics, curators, and friends from the ICA and PMA joined us for a discussion of Glenn Ligon, an American conceptual artist whose work explores race, language, sexuality, and identity.

Jenny Chen (C'14) and **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) upgraded our kitchen composting system, installed a rain barrel, planted an herb garden, and concocted DIY cleaning and plant care products, including a very spicy-smelling squirrel repellent.

Katie Behrman (C'15) and **Aelita Parker** (C'14) hosted a program focused on the controversial and influential rapper Kanye West. Our Kanye West Fest packed the house with music fans, fashionistas, and performers, as well as foodie-punsters who helped plan an over-the-top Westcentric reception.

Josie Elias (C'14) and **Nihaar Sinha** (C'14) produced *Office Hours*, a Penn-based TV show that is unabashedly raunchy, yet endearing in its clever, tongue-in-cheek skewering of campus culture.

Our annual Edible Books party featured witty book-inspired food sculptures by at least twenty culinary experimentalists. Entries included "Don Quichote" by **Arielle Pardes** (C'14), "(Un)Remembrance of Things Pabst" by **Jess Bergman** (C'14) and **Isaac Kaplan** (C'15), and several flan-centric entries, such as "A Good Flan is Hard to Find" by **Meg Pendoley** (C'16).



STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Creative Ventures has fully supported two student-run, interdisciplinary magazines: *Stamped* (stampedmag.com), an adventurous travel magazine that combines memoir, journalism, travelogue, and photography; and *Symbiosis* (upennsymbiosis.com), a project that pairs visual artists with writers to produce multidisciplinary and totally original collaborations.

ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNALISM

Students in **Sam Apple's** Creative Ventures-sponsored Entrepreneurial Journalism class developed ideas for journalism-based startups, such as Vortex, a Spotify-like platform for reading favorite articles, or Memento, a tool for creating and organizing multimedia travelogues. At the end of the semester, our entrepreneurial journalists pitched their projects to a panel of professional writers and techies. Though \$7,500 in seed funding was on the line for the winning idea, the students remained calm and cool (and often very funny) as they made their presentations. While judges deliberated in the back of the house, students celebrated their work — and a great semester — over pizza in the KWH dining room. The grand prize went to **Samara Gordon** (C'14) for News Before It Happens, an interactive site in which columnists predict the news and readers vote for likely outcomes.

ARTSEdge RESIDENCY

For her rich, immersive prose, we selected Caribbean-American fiction writer **A. Naomi Jackson** as the recipient of the 2013–14 ArtsEdge Residency, a collaborative fellowship project (co-sponsored by Penn's Facilities and Real Estate Services) designed to encourage the careers of emergent writers and artists. Jackson used her fellowship year to finish her first novel, *Who Don't Hear Will Feel*, which is forthcoming from Penguin Press in 2015. During her time in Philadelphia, Jackson also led a free, five-week-long multi-genre writing “bootcamp” for adult women writers of color and taught an introductory writing course for Penn undergrads that focused on narrative voice. She organized two events at KWH: a reading by **Iain Pollock**, a Cave Canem award-winning poet who teaches at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, and a panel discussion of language and voice in Caribbean writing, featuring novelists **Marlon James** and **Oonya Kempadoo**.

CREATIVE PEOPLE

Creative Ventures gives Penn students direct access to creative people in a variety of industries. We've hosted conversations with filmmakers, art curators, musicians, city planners, Wharton professors, architecture critics, visual artists, dancers, TV executives, activists, designers, performance artists, gamemakers, sound technicians, and other innovators.

Anthony DeCurtis led a conversation with rock musician **Jesse Malin** about songwriting, going solo, and living the musical life. (Malin even brought out his guitar to play a few songs.)

Movie producer **Robert Greenhut** guided us through decades of film history by describing his own enviable career working with Hollywood greats such as Woody Allen, Penny Marshall, Mike Nichols, and Martin Scorsese.

We partnered with the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia to explore the psychologically driven work of writer **Siri Hustvedt**. Literature professor **Jean Michel Rabaté** and psychoanalyst **Elaine Zickler** grappled with Hustvedt's intricate writing — and Hustvedt herself read from *The Sorrows of an American* and joined the lively discussion.

Wharton professor **Kevin Werbach**, who teaches a massive open online course on gamification, joined **Al Filreis** for a discussion about the flipped classroom, online learning, and new opportunities in education.

Dutch avant-garde composer and performance artist **Jaap Blonk** blew us away with his masterful vocal experiments.

Just months before she won a Pulitzer Prize, *Philadelphia Inquirer* architecture critic **Inga Saffron** joined us for a conversation with **Dick Polman** about architecture and city planning. The Robinson Press printed a DIY cut-and-fold building to mark the occasion.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM



Recently named by *Huffington Post* as one of the twelve most unusual college courses in America, the **Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar** led by Faculty Director **Al Filreis** allows undergraduates to interact with some of the greatest living authors of our time, not in a packed lecture hall, but in the intimate setting of our own cozy house.

For this unique project, a small group of students closely study the works of three eminent writing fellows — this year, **Buzz Bissinger** (C'76), **T. C. Boyle**, and **Rae Armantrout**. We then invite each fellow to KWH for transformative two-day visits, with heady discussions in the Arts Café, standing-room-only public events, and small-group dinner parties lovingly prepared and hosted by students. The result? “A dream come true for Lit nerds,” as Fellows student Nina Friend (C'16) put it in *HuffPo*.

* * *

Buzz Bissinger's Philadelphia, the Philadelphia of *A Prayer for the City*, resonates deeply with his readers. Seminar student **Gwen Lewis** (C'14) movingly

described such resonance when she introduced Bissinger and his work to a rapt audience in the Arts Café on the evening of Bissinger's public reading at KWH. “As someone who has never found the language to express the essence of all that is broken with ‘my Philly,’ I thank Buzz for writing *A Prayer for the City*,” Gwen intoned. “I thank him for giving me the opportunity to lean on his book.”

Gwen's praise for Bissinger's honest treatment of Philadelphia — *our* Philadelphia — extended to his other work as well. And like Gwen, the Fellows students were drawn to Bissinger's intense and forthright focus on his personal life, especially in his recent works, which explore his relationship with his mentally disabled son, his anger issues, and his spiraling struggles with addiction. In fact, by the time



Bissinger visited the Arts Café for a meeting with the Fellows class, many felt that they already knew him. And as his writing intimated, Bissinger proved himself to be extraordinarily open and willing to share details about his life and writing.

Bissinger's work inspired the seminar students to speculate about addiction and its relation to writing — fitting preparation for reading the work of T. C. Boyle, where substance abuse and the inescapable cycles of bad relationships (with people, the environment, and literature) litter the near-infinite pages of this red-haired rock star's prolific collection of short stories and novels.

Michael Scognamiglio (C'14), **Katie Antonsson** (C'15), and **Hannah Frank** (C'17) all read extra Boyle novels to probe these complexities. But no matter how closely they and the other seminar students examined the work, the endings, motives, and even plot points remained mysterious in the most enticing way. When Boyle himself flew in from the West Coast, the students found him equally inscrutable (he refused to spoil the mystery of his work) and devilishly funny, too. His sense of humor was certainly something that longtime Boyle fan **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) included in her introduction of Boyle, before Boyle performed two stories for the eager public in a dramatically lit Arts Café.

Later over dinner, a delicious meal cooked by students under the direction of regular Fellows chef **Myra Lotto** (C'99, GAS'12), Boyle laid humor aside as he bonded with **Max Apple** over Donald Barthelme and mused on the state of the California drought.

For the third and final Writers House fellow, students turned their attention from fiction to poetry.



Rae Armantrout was the perfect poet to herald in an uncertain spring following a long winter, as her poetry focuses not on lyrical images of birds arriving and flowers blooming, but rather on "dark matter." Fellows seminar students often discussed only a few poems in each of their three-hour sessions, and they still felt there was more to interpret. Their collaborative close readings covered overheard language, storybook imagery, science terminology, and popular culture, all in the service of Armantrout's exploration of language, memory, mortality, selfhood, knowing, and not knowing.

Despite the disorientation caused by Armantrout's abrupt linguistic shifts, students found themselves returning again and again to certain phrases. Armantrout-made "aphorisms" — "ventriloquy is the mother tongue" or "to each his own severance package" — rang true in the final weeks of the course.

We marked the importance of these words and of the visit with a letterpressed broadside, hand printed at the Robinson Press by **Henry Steinberg** (C'13), **Gabriel Ojeda-Sague** (C'16), **Virginia Seymour** (C'16), and others. The limited-edition poster featured the seminar's favorite Armantroutism: "a sense of self starts in the mouth and spreads slowly," an apt description, it turns out, of Armantrout's distinctive reading style.

Bissinger, Boyle, and Armantrout were all charmed to be part of the Fellows project, and the experience was as transformative for them as it was for the students in the class. The Fellows Seminar has run this way for sixteen years now, thanks to the annual generosity of **Nancy and Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present), whose support has helped define the Arts Café as a very special classroom.

REALARTS@PENN



The **RealArts@Penn** program offers arts-related programming at KWH hosted by faculty member **Anthony DeCurtis**, and a suite of **paid internships** at premier partner organizations, such as *Rolling Stone*, *Viacom*, *McSweeney's*, and *Nickelodeon*.

RealArts@Penn summer internships introduce students to the business of arts, culture, and media, supporting them as they form meaningful connections with industry professionals. Amanda Wolkin (C'14) won an internship with Philadelphia Magazine. Here's what she had to say about the experience:

“ I was given long-term assignments that allowed me to work closely with journalists including Lisa DePaulo (C'82), who has written for *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, and *New York Magazine*. I transcribed the majority of Lisa's interviews for a lengthy feature article entitled “The Dead Girl in the Bathtub,” which later became an e-book.

I did my own writing, too. One of my blog posts hit #1 on *Philly Mag's* website and stayed there for more than a week. I'll never forget when the digital media director — also a Penn grad — came up behind me in my cubicle and tapped me on the shoulder. “Your article has officially reached over

10,000 individual viewers,” he said. That was definitely the culminating experience of my internship: knowing that literally thousands of people had read what I wrote.

Best of all: my relationship with my supervisor Malcolm Burnley, *Philly Mag's* research editor at the time, extended beyond the realm of my ten-week internship. We've had frequent emails and texts since, and he is still an incredible mentor, trusted confidant, and a pro recommendation writer. With the support of RealArts and a mentor like Malcolm, I feel ready to step confidently into the professional world.”

2013 & 2014 REALARTS@PENN INTERNSHIPS

With the help of Penn alumni, parents, and faculty, we create unique internships at renowned arts and culture organizations. We retain close relationships with these organizations to ensure that our interns receive substantive real-world experience. Because RealArts internships are paid, our interns can avoid the financial burdens typically associated with unpaid internships. Since 2008, RealArts@Penn has placed 55 student interns. Two-thirds of RealArts graduates have gone on to begin careers in arts-related fields after graduation.

TV & FILM

Brooklyn Films: Nihaar Sinha (C'14)
Brooklyn Films: Carolina Beltran (C'15)
David Stern and Stuart Gibbs, Writers: Danny Eisenberg (C'14)
David Stern and Stuart Gibbs, Writers: Caroline Yost (C'15)
Nickelodeon Animation Studios: Faryn Pearl (C'14)
Original Film: Jake Lasker (C'14)

DIGITAL MEDIA & PR

Shore Fire Media: Samantha Apfel (C'15)
Shore Fire Media: Nathan Platnick (C'16)
Viacom Creative Services: Frida Garza (C'14)
Viacom Creative Services: Julia Liebergall (C'15)

PRINT

McSweeney's: Brenda Wang (C'16)
The Philadelphia Inquirer: Jun-Youb "JY" Lee (W'13, C'13)
The Philadelphia Inquirer: Iris Williamson (C'16)
Philadelphia Magazine: Amanda Wolkin (C'14)
Philadelphia Magazine: Manola Gonzalez (C'16)
Rolling Stone: Nina Wolpow (C'14)
Rolling Stone: Katie Behrman (C'15)

MUSEUM

The Jewish Museum: Isaac Kaplan (C'15)
The Jewish Museum: Samantha Sharon (C'15)

OTHER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We're thrilled to work with alumni and other friends of the Kelly Writers House to establish additional internship opportunities to supplement the RealArts@Penn project.

Stephen Fried (C'79) led a yearlong internship for ten students who helped him research the life of Dr. Benjamin Rush, the founding father of American medicine and frenemy of George Washington.

Maury Povich (C'62) sponsored an internship at the *Flathead Beacon*, a successful newspaper in Kalispell, Montana devoted to delivering thought-provoking news and commentary.

Meredith Stiehm (C'90) arranged an internship in the writers room of Emmy award-winning *Homeland*. (Everyone at KWH is jealous!)

Richard Nijkerk and Lauren Nijkerk-Bogen supported an internship at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, which was established in 1930 to promote Jewish art and learning.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ANTHONY DECURTIS

There are plenty of reasons to take Arts and Popular Culture, the hugely popular writing class taught by Grammy award-winning, *Rolling Stone* editor **Anthony DeCurtis**. There's the ridiculously awesome subject matter (who doesn't want to write about *Mad Men* or Michael Jackson?), the unusual assignments (the whole class live tweets the Academy Awards), and the blow-your-mind class visitors. Anthony is expert at connecting KWH students with some of the greatest pop innovators in journalism, music, television, and film. Whether it's a conversation with musician Jesse Malin in the Arts Café, or a karaoke singalong in the living room with essayist and critic Rob Sheffield, Anthony and the RealArts@Penn program shrink the distance between students and stardom. Inspired by his mentorship and his outside-the-classroom participation in the intellectual life of the KWH, Anthony's students nominated him this year for the prestigious Beltran Family Award for Innovative Teaching & Mentoring.



**THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
REALARTS POSSIBLE!**

It takes a dedicated team to sustain a meaningful internship project. Arts-engaged Penn alumni and faculty — including **David Stern** (C'89, ENG'89), **Stuart Gibbs** (C'91), **Cheryl Family** (C'91), **Jon Avnet** (C'71), **Anthony DeCurtis**, and **Dick Polman** — lent us their expertise and their connections at various arts and culture organizations to make the RealArts@Penn project possible. CPCW staff members **R.J. Bernocco** and **Mingo Reynolds** developed strong relationships with host institutions to help ensure unique, handcrafted internship experiences. Generous Penn alumni contributed funding to make it possible for us to pay stipends for all RealArts interns. Thank you especially to **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72), the **Cape Branch Foundation**, and **Ossi and Paul Burger** (W'77).



RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Peter LaBerge (C'17), founding editor of *The Adroit Journal*, a national literary magazine for young writers, first caught our attention when he was a high school junior. We knew he'd be a perfect fit for the KWH community — he's a literary entrepreneur with standout writing talent — so we contacted him, told him about KWH, and encouraged him to check us out. Peter pored over our websites and connected with Penn students and faculty to find out more. When Peter applied for admission to Penn, KWH was central to his application.

Peter is one of many students we recruited to Penn. Approximately 200 high school students with some affiliation to the Writers House applied for admission to Penn's class of 2018 — and we've known several of them for years and helped guide them through the admission process.

It's all part of a great push to bring in the best writers we can — especially those young writers from under-resourced schools, or who never believed Penn was an option.

For lots of these students, the recruitment process starts when they meet **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), our associate director for recruitment. Others find us through ModPo, the massive open online course on modern and contemporary poetry led by Faculty Director **Al Filreis**, or through other online resources such as PennSound, KWH-TV, or a book group for high school students Jamie-Lee leads each summer. High school teachers and guidance counselors steer their

writing students here, and we're eager to reach out to teenage writers who have founded magazines, participated in poetry slams, staged plays, reported for their local newspapers, or otherwise demonstrated a passion for the literary arts.

And our efforts pay off: students who come to Penn in this way immediately join an existing network of writers and are able to jump right in to the campus writing scene.

Of course, it's our KWH family, led by Jamie-Lee, who offers the greatest recruitment help. **Josie Elias** (C'14) continued his superb work this year as our recruitment assistant. Students and alumni such as **Victoria Ford** (C'15), **Josh Herren** (C'13), **Manola Gonzales** (C'15), **Mark Maas** (C'73), **Arielle Pardes** (C'14), **Maury Povich** (C'62), and **Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve** (C'88, W'88) have helped us establish relationships with high schools, teachers, and guidance counselors. We are especially grateful to our colleagues in Penn's Office of Admissions who give us ongoing guidance about the admissions process, most notably **Eric Furda** (C'87), dean of admissions, and **Amy Smith** (C'11), our admissions liaison.

Over 100 people, including a groundswell of young alumni, contributed this year to our **Student Recruitment Fund** to offset the costs associated with our outreach efforts. Lead gifts to the fund by **Joan Kim** (C'97, G'97, W'99), **Susan Small Savitsky** (CW'75), and **the Halpern Foundation**, helped ensure that Jamie-Lee can seek out young writers all over the country. We owe special thanks to **Harry Rosenberg** and **Laurie Sayet**, whose **Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers** sustains this work, and to **Louis and Susan Meisel**, who host an annual benefit event that supports our recruitment efforts.

SHOUT OUTS!

The Halpern family (Alex C'04; Steve W'78, WG'79; and Richard WG'73) hosted Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) for a whirlwind two-day recruitment trip to Pittsburgh.

Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C'88, W'88) connected us with St. Andrew's School in Delaware, a high school that cares deeply about the humanities and has a strong commitment to students with financial need.

Mark Maas (C'73) works tirelessly to help high-achieving, under-resourced students gain access to selective universities. He has been a tremendous liaison for us, introducing us to several New York City-area high schools.

The Penn Art and Culture initiative, led by Professor **Karen Beckman** and **Brooke Sietensons**, introduces prospective students to all of Penn's creative opportunities and hubs, including KWH.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KATE HERZLIN, LEVIN OUTREACH COORDINATOR



Massive budget cuts, staff layoffs, and school closures proved disastrous for Philadelphia's public school system this year. Troubled by such developments, **Kate Herzlin** (C'14), our Levin Outreach Coordinator, spear-headed KWH efforts to respond to the city's education crisis.

Kate organized materials

drives for two local organizations in need of supplies. Hub members partnered with the Penn Reading Project to gather a small mountain of marble notebooks and loose-leaf paper for Samuel B. Huey Elementary School, an under-resourced West Philly school. We also collected boxes and boxes of young adult books for Mighty Writers, a nonprofit designed to combat Philadelphia's literacy crisis.

With Kate's support, our own longstanding literacy project thrived. Kids from Lea Elementary visited every Friday for Write On, a student-led tutoring project that instills a love of learning by focusing

on writing games and creative play. Kate's heroic efforts in the kitchen (fresh fruit with whipped cream, baked cinnamon twists, fancy pizza puffs) kept the children coming back week after week, even after the program had ended for the year.

Finally, Kate forged a relationship between KWH and Mentor for Philly, a startup organization that helps high school students with the college application process. As the coordinator for the project's Penn chapter, Kate helped Mentor for Philly organize, conceive, and refine some of the project details, and she recruited and trained mentors to venture out to local schools.

"It was an amazing feeling knowing that there was this warm, inviting community at the Writers House that welcomed prospective students with open arms!"

— Anissa Lee, C'18

IVY IN YOUR BACKYARD

We were thrilled when our partners in Penn's Office of Admissions contacted us about a new initiative to provide guidance about the college application process to Philadelphia-area public high school students and their parents. Ivy in Your Backyard offered a day full of presentations, including college essay writing workshops led by members of the KWH community. After a rousing introduction by **Al Filreis**, several hundred Philly high schoolers split into small workshop groups led by **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) and a team of KWH essay coaches: **Jess Bergman** (C'14), **Camara Brown** (C'17), **Gina DeCagna** (C'16), **Rachel del Valle** (C'14), **Gina Dukes** (C'16), **Josie Elias** (C'14), **Frida Garza** (C'14), **Alina Grabowski** (C'16), **Kate Herzlin** (C'14), **Leslie Krivo-Kaufman** (C'14), **Gwen Lewis** (C'14), **Arielle Pardes** (C'14), **Julia Schwartz** (C'15), **Lauren Shapiro** (C'16), **Naomi Shavin** (C'14), **Amanda Wolkin** (C'14), and **Nina Wolpov** (C'14). The afternoon was such a success that we hosted two more Ivy In Your Backyard writing workshops this year, including one in conjunction with Penn's MLK Day of Service in January.

Our associate director for recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), travels all over the country in search of talented young writers. Visits included:



Francis Parker School: San Diego, CA
Orange County School of the Arts: Santa Ana, CA
Bonita Vista High School: Chula Vista, CA
San Diego School of the Creative and Performing Arts: San Diego, CA
Granada Hills Charter High School: Granada Hills, CA
WriteGirl: Los Angeles, CA
St. Andrew's School: Middletown, DE
Writopia Lab: New York, NY
Girls Write Now: New York, NY
Achievement First Brooklyn High School: Brooklyn, NY
Brooklyn Technical High School: Brooklyn, NY
Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop: Gambier, OH
Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School: Pittsburgh, PA
The Neighborhood Academy: Pittsburgh, PA
Shady Side Academy: Pittsburgh, PA
South Carolina Governor's School for Arts and Humanities: Greenville, SC
New England Young Writers Conference: Middlebury, VT



THANK YOU.

All of our projects and programs are made possible by the loyal support of people like you. The Writers House depends on its community for ideas, energy, and involvement, and also, crucially, for financial generosity.

Thank you, friends, for believing in us — for protecting, nourishing, and sustaining this creative enterprise.

INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, & MENTORSHIPS

Bassini Apprenticeship Fund

The Bassini Apprenticeship Fund enables us to pair students with professional writers associated with Penn's writing programs. By working alongside their mentors, apprentices gain invaluable firsthand experience in the real work of a writing career. In this eighth year of the program, Jackie Duhl (C'15) worked with Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C'88, W'88) on research into the science of global warming. Jesse Yackey (C'16) assisted Gwendolyn Shaw with a book project about consumer products that contain super-small nanomaterials. Alex Brown helped Peter Tarr shape a manuscript about the establishment of a public schools system in the Philippine Islands by the United States government, acting as "benevolent" colonizer circa 1900. Endowed by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73).

Eisler Endowed Internship Fund So that any student can afford to pursue career-specific learning opportunities regardless of financial circumstance, the Eisler Internship Fund allows us to pay stipends to students for competitive (but unpaid

or modestly paid) internships at cultural institutions. Endowed by Bonnie Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79).

Kate Levin Community Outreach

Internship Fund This fund permanently endows our Outreach Coordinator Internship, so that we may pay a student to organize ongoing community service efforts. Outreach Coordinator Kate Herzlin (C'14) is well known by the children of Lea Elementary for her delicious, healthy snacks. This year, Kate also steered a new partnership with Mentor for Philly, a group that mentors students in Philadelphia's underfunded public high schools. Endowed by Kate Levin (GAS'96).

Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed

Internship Fund With support from the Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund, students intern with our staff to learn professional copy-editing, proofreading, and design. Mandel interns put their skills to work at *Jacket2* (jacket2.org), our online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics. Endowed by Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83).

Mentorship Support Through our Alumni Mentorship Program students seeking guidance about writing careers meet one-on-one and in small groups with alumni writers, editors, executives, and others with expertise to share. One standout mentorship lunch this year featured Katie Sanders (C'12), a contributing editor at *Glamour* magazine, who herself was an avid participant in KWH's mentorship and internship opportunities (including as a recipient of the Heled Travel Grant and the Bassini Apprenticeship). Supported annually by Penn parent Judith Zarin.

RealArts@Penn Internship Funds

RealArts@Penn is a project designed to help some of Penn's most creative students make meaningful connections beyond the university, particularly through paid summer internships at leading arts and culture institutions, such as *Rolling Stone*, Viacom, the Jewish Museum, and McSweeney's. Supported by the RealArts Internship Fund, created by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation, and the Paul and Ossi Burger RealArts@Penn Internship Fund, established by Paul (W'76) and Ossi Burger.



AWARDS & PRIZES

Beltran Family Teaching and Award Fund The Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award allows us to honor an outstanding teacher. In addition to a cash prize, the award recipient receives a grant to develop a KWH program in keeping with the teacher's innovative work. This year's honoree was distinguished lecturer in the Creative Writing Program, Anthony DeCurtis, who used his award to commission new work from writers and artists speculating on "the shape of things to come." Participants presented their work at *Imagining the Future*, a KWH event that also featured futuristic snacks. Endowed by Penn parents John Paul Beltran and Lina Beltran.

Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Fund The Heled Travel Grant enables a student to travel for the purpose of conducting the research that will lead to a significant writing project. Our 2014 grantee Shaj Mathew (C'14) traveled to Barcelona to retrace novelist Roberto Bolaño's last years; to research Bolaño's life, work, and unpublished manuscripts; and to produce his own work, a hybrid of travelogue and literary criticism. Endowed by Mali Heled Kinberg (C'80) in memory of her mother Terry B. Heled.

Michael and Danielle Goldstein Endowed Prize This endowed prize awards a stipend to an outstanding KWH-affiliated student in need of support. This year's winner was Mariah Macias (C'17), who, as a freshman, made herself immediately indispensable as an editorial assistant for KWH's online journal of poetics, *Jacket2*. Mariah's goal is to use the prize to complete a 100,000-word draft of a new novel during the month of July. Endowed by Penn parents Michael and Danielle Goldstein.

Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction The Parker Prize celebrates excellence in student nonfiction writing, especially long-form journalism. The 2014 Parker Prize winner was former *34th Street* managing editor Sam Brodey (C'14). Sam's winning entry, a feature article about socioeconomic diversity at Penn entitled "Not Enough," was featured on the *Longreads* blog and picked up by the *Huffington Post*. Sam is the newest online editorial fellow for *Mother Jones*. Endowed by Bret Parker (C'90).

The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund We established the Kerry Prize to honor the literary communitarianism of our first director, Kerry Sherin Wright. The prize is awarded annually to a Hub member who proposes a project in line with Kerry's capacious vision. This year's winner, Kenna O'Rourke (C'15), organized *Locally Grown*, a panel discussion exploring the idea of "local" — local politics, local art, local music, local food — and what it means for Philadelphians. Supported annually by the KWH community, with a special gift this year from Richard Cook and Lucy Oh Cook (C'95).



TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OPEN-ENDED SUPPORT

Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund The Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund honors the centrality of our kitchen — a place for ridiculously good food, late-night conversations fueled by our abundant coffee, and study sessions around the green table. The kitchen makes possible all of our favorite food-centric annual events, including Hub Thanksgiving (turkey and all the fixings) and Mind of Winter (more homemade soup than you can shake a spoon at). But the Kane-Wallace Kitchen fund also allows us to get creative with our culinary offerings, including the homage to TV dinners we served up following our Writing About TV events, the Southern-influenced okra, biscuits, and Chicken à la King we made for our marathon reading of Toni Morrison's *Jazz*, and the punny dishes of our Edible Books Party (*Flan-ny and Zooey*; *Werther's-ing Heights*; *For Whom the Babybel Tolls*). Endowed by Ed Kane (C'71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace.

Faculty Director's Discretionary Fund This fund enables Faculty Director Al Filreis to seek out, encourage, and invest in student talents and ideas. This year Al used the fund to help students pursue exciting summer opportunities, such as Bree Jackson (C'15), who interned at *V Magazine*, and Ayla Fudala (C'16), who taught creative writing to children at Frost Valley summer camp. A special gift to the fund from Maria Popova (C'07) allowed Victoria Ford (C'15) to develop a multimedia project about hip-hop artists of the '70s and '80s. Supported by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72), Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73), Jean Sherman Chatzky (C'86), Eliot Kaplan (C'78), Maria Popova (C'07), Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92), Lee Rudy (C'92), Ric Lewis, and Ilina Singh (C'88, G'89).

Ronca-Baird Discretionary Fund The Ronca-Baird Fund allows us to encourage student creativity and to support special learning opportunities as they emerge. This year, the fund allowed us to expand and deepen our commitment to internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships, which are central to an education in writing and the arts. Funded by Penn parents Jim Ronca and Deborah Baird.

Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Fund for the Support of Student Creative Writing A stellar student who graduated from Penn's College for Women in 1955, Alice Cooper Shoulberg went on to a brilliant career as a Philadelphia public school teacher. Established in her memory, the Cooper Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Publications Room (the "Pub Room"), where students depend on computers to edit and publish their magazines. Endowed by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoulberg.

Nir-Braufman Term Fund at Kelly Writers House We are committed to making our vast digital resources freely available to anyone in the world with internet access. The Nir-Braufman Fund provides crucial annual support for the suite of interrelated digital projects that allow us to reach out so expansively. Projects include *Jacket2*, the online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics that has readers in over two hundred countries; PennSound, the largest online collection of free, downloadable digital recordings in the world; PennSound Radio, which provides streaming content 24/7; and PoemTalk, a scintillating monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis in collaboration with the Poetry Foundation. Through these projects, students receive valuable experience in digital editing, proofreading and copyediting, AV production, web design, archival research, and more. Funded annually by Daniel Nir (C'82, W'82) and Jill Braufman.

Gordon Walls '38 Creative Ventures Fund Through this flexible fund we support fresh initiatives and ideas, especially the creative (and sometimes outlandish) dreams of our Hub members, who constantly revitalize the KWH project with proposals for new publications, outreach programs, literary celebrations, and other community-driven projects. Supported annually by Bill Bond, Sandy Bond, and Gordon Lane Bond (C'06).



WHAT IS ENDOWMENT?

Endowment works like an investment account: we invest an initial endowment gift so that it will generate interest. The interest accrues and may be spent or reinvested — but we never spend the original endowment gift. Structured this way, an endowment gift supports the KWH forever.

WHAT CAN ENDOWMENT DO?

"Endowment" merely refers to the way in which a gift is structured; the possibilities for what endowment can do are endless. Endowment gifts can be directed toward specific needs, such as annual programs, student internships, staff positions, equipment, classrooms, and more.

HOW CAN I HELP?

It's not necessary to make a large gift to assist our endowment effort. We have a General Endowment Fund to which anyone can contribute, in any amount. For larger gifts, we have a "wish list" of opportunities — specific projects that need your help, some of which you can also name.

TELL ME MORE!

Contact Arielle Brousse (C'07, SPP'12), our assistant director for development, at brousse@writing.upenn.edu or (215) 573-4844.



PROJECTS

Kelly Writers House Fellows Now in its sixteenth year, the Kelly Writers House Fellows program invites three eminent writers each year for intensive two-day visits that include a public reading, an interview with Al Filreis, and a meeting with students in the associated Fellows Seminar. The Fellows project enables young writers to interact with working writers they greatly admire, in settings ideal for meaningful intellectual exchange — including casual conversations over home-cooked meals in our dining room. This year's fellows were nonfiction writer Buzz Bissinger (C'76), novelist T.C. Boyle, and poet Rae Armantrout. Supported annually by Nancy and Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present).

The Brodsky Gallery Fund The Brodsky Gallery Fund supports the work of young art curators, who select, hang, and showcase works by local (and not-so-local) visual artists. Lead curator Lily Applebaum (C'12) put up four shows this year, including “A Prize Every Time,” a collection of photographs by artist Ryan Collard depicting the New Jersey State Fair, and “Symbiosis,” a series of collaborations between undergraduate writers and visual artists brought together by Penn's Symbiosis project, a student group dedicated to uniting visual and literary artists. Endowed by Michael Brodsky (W'88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C'89).

Writers House Journal Endowment Fund The Writers House Journal Endowment Fund supports the infrastructure and maintenance of our internationally renowned online journal of modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, *Jacket2*. Updated daily with reviews, scholarship, commentary, and interviews, *Jacket2* is a premier literary resource for its global audience. Endowed by Harry Groome (C'63).

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Fund Through the Robinson Press, students discover and explore print culture. Led by alumnus Henry Steinberg (C'13), with regular assistance from Virginia Seymour (C'15) and Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'15), Robinson Press projects include broadsides, postcards, maps, hand-sewn books, and more. Endowed by Nina Robinson Vitow (CW'70, WG'76) in memory of her parents Herman and Jeanne Robinson.

Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowment for Literary Journalism Magazine The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures student journalistic talent by making possible the publication of *Filament*, a *New Yorker*-style publication that features substantial long-form pieces by Penn students. Endowed by Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld.

The Creative Ventures Fund The Creative Ventures project enables Penn's most creative students and faculty to pursue ambitious

ideas, especially those that emphasize innovation, process, and imagination. The Creative Ventures Fund made possible a range of projects this year, including a talk with architecture critic Inga Saffron, a presentation on the true cost of coal mining with the Beehive Collective, and a conversation and performance with musician Jesse Malin. Creative Ventures also supported an entrepreneurial journalism course, which culminated in a “pitch night” that awarded \$7,500 to Samara Gordon (C'14) for her winning idea, *News Before It Happens*, a web-based, interactive site for predicting future events. Supported annually by Marc Wolpow (W'80) and Robin Wolpow.

CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund Every other year we partner with the Institute of Contemporary Art to offer a unique year-long undergraduate course, sponsored by the CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund. Led by conceptual artist and poet Kenneth Goldsmith (MOMA's first poet-in-residence), *Writing through Culture and Art* takes students on museum and gallery tours, leads them through immersive writing experiences, and challenges their notions of form. This year, students in the course collaborated to write *RE:CREATION MYTH*, a book inspired by artist Jason Rhoades' installation piece, *The Creation Myth*. Funded annually by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation.

Friends of the Kelly Writers House give gifts that support our various student-conceived, student-led programs and series.

We're delighted to recognize the alumni, staff, parents, and other friends who have generously given to the Writers House this past year:

Bill Abbott; Matthew Algeo; Heath Allen; Nathalie Anderson; Steven Andrews; Max Apple and Talya Fishman (in honor of Leah Apple's graduation); Tomomi Arikawa; Tali Aronsky; Derek Arthur; John Ashbery; Duff Axsom; Linda Badal; Robin Leslie Bahr Casey; Eileen Baird; Deb Baird and Jim Ronca; Sylva Baker; Anne Balcer; Rebecca Ballantine; Dennis and Debbie Barone; Greg Barron; Elissa Bassini and Jeremy Pick; Omprakash Batheja; Susan and Arthur Becker-Weidman (in honor of Ella Madison Grinshpan); Jay Begun; Craig E. Behrenfeld; Mary Behrman; Julia Bemiss; Evelyn Bender; Tina Bennett; Steve Berer and Nancy Micklewright; Barry M. Berger, M.D.; Jackie Berkehl Friedland; Marshall Berman; Ellan and Leonard Bernstein; Charles Bernstein and Susan Bee; Anna Black Morin; Ronna W. Blaser; Rachel Blau Duplessis; Julia Bloch and Allison Harris; David and Vivian Blum; Megan Bly; Janice Bohman; Scott and Roxanne Bok; Gordon Bond; William Bond; Merle Born; Kathleen Boyd and Daniel Even; Madeline Bradstock; Nathalie Bragadir; Steve Brauntuch; Barbara Bravo; Jay Brecker; Isaac Brooks; Meredith Brooks and David Grazian; Jackee and Denis Brousse (in honor of Arielle Brousse); Deborah Brown; Michael Brown; Ann and David Brownlee; Alexis Brunswick; Robert Brylawski; Alexa Bryn; Mary Ann Burdett; Nathalie Burg; Sally Burrell; Bill Burrison; Joyce Butler; Tracylea Byford and Charles Bronk; William Camarda; Christie Cantor; Karen Carlson; Lorrie Carlson; Craig Carnaroli and Amie Thornton; Lynn Carroll; Leonard Cassuto; Dan Castleman and Nancy Ruskin; Phil and Wendy Catalano; Mary Carol Catanese; Earl Caustin; Pat Cawiezell; Mandana Chaffa; Elyse Cheney; Stanley Chodorow; Peter Cianfrani; Carol Shlifer Clapp; Sara Coelho; Charles Cohen; Robert Cohen; Rachel Cohen; David Comberg and Christine Nelson; John J. Conley; Leah Conley Begg; Sandy Coomer; Kerry Cooperman; James Cornell; Robert Cort; Lydia Cortes; Randall Couch; Ben Crair; Jill and Jayson Crair; Pam and Mike Crane; Susan Croll and Paul Monasevitch; Michael Crow; Amaris Cuchanski; Vincent Curren and Julie Preis; Jeffrey and Susan Cutler; Becky Dalzell; Barbara Daniels; Larry and Alice Elliott



BEYOND THE CAMPUS

Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund allows us to seek out and engage talented young writers. Half of the gift supports the work of our associate director of recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), who recruits promising writers to Penn. The other half funds an internship for a KWH-affiliated student to teach creative writing to children during the summer. 2014 Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Alina Grabowski (C'16) taught boys and girls aged 8 through 15 at Frost Valley YMCA's summer camp. Endowed by Harry Rosenberg (W'79) and Laurie Sayet.

KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund Since the launch of our Alumni Online Book Groups in 2000, we've hosted nearly eighty moderator-led online book discussions for alumni, Penn parents, and our extended Penn family. Group leaders this year organized robust discussions on a diverse range of topics and texts, including the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks, the lyrics of Bob Dylan, and the Pulitzer prize-winning work of Jennifer Egan (C'85). Lily Applebaum (C'12) and Max McKenna (C'10) used the book group platform to pilot a special course on the works of former Writers House Fellows Robert Coover, Ian Frazier, Susan Howe, and Jamaica Kincaid, dipping into the KWH video archive for materials. Supported annually by David Roberts (W'84).

Esther T. Saxon Term Fund The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects for schoolchildren in local catchments, many of which are under-resourced and in need of the enrichment Writers House programs can provide. The cornerstone of these efforts is Write On, a student-led literacy project that invites grade-schoolers to the House for playful,

collaborative creative writing exercises undertaken with peers and mentors. Supported annually by Jerilyn Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.

Digital Poetries Fund Our Digital Poetries Fund allows us to make our vast digital resources freely available to anyone, anywhere in the world. The fund pays for staff and equipment to support PennSound, the largest online collection of free digital poetry recordings in the world; PoemTalk, a monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis and co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation of Chicago; *Jacket2*, the premier online resource for critical and scholarly writing about poetry; and ModPo, our MOOC on modern and contemporary poetry taught by Al Filreis and a team of TAs. Supported annually by the KWH community, with special support from David Roberts (W'84), Harry Groome (C'63), and Stuart Applebaum, who made his gift in honor of Lily Applebaum (C'12).

Student Recruitment and Access Fund With help from the Access Fund, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) has worked tirelessly as our associate director of recruitment to locate, identify, and recruit talented young writers. Our goal is to show those students — particularly those who believe Penn is beyond their reach financially, geographically, or otherwise — that a Penn education is possible. Anyone can make a gift to the Access Fund; if you are interested in improving access for underprivileged or geographically isolated students, please contact Arielle Brousse (brousse@writing.upenn.edu) or Jamie-Lee Josselyn (jjossely@writing.upenn.edu). Supported annually by the KWH community. Special gifts this year from Joan Kim (C'97), Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75), and the Halpern Foundation.



SUPPORT FOR EVENTS

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund The Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund allows us to host conversations with editors and publishers we admire — the people who curate, refine, and disseminate the writing we read and enjoy. This year, the Applebaum Fund sponsored talks with children's book editors Wendy Lamb and Brenda Bowen, moderated by Donna Jo Napoli. Endowed by Irwyn Applebaum (C'75) and Lucy Applebaum.

Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund It's riveting when *Rolling Stone* editor Anthony DeCurtis interviews a rock legend for an audience of 50 in our Arts Café — and that's just what the Blatt Fund makes possible. This year's symposium featured Graham Nash, who entertained listeners with a story about how John Lennon stole his first guitar and acoustic performances of "Back Home" and "Teach Your Children," complete with an audience singalong. Endowed by Mitchell Blatt (C'78, M'82, L'84, Trustee 1998-2008) and Margo Blatt.

Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund The Bok Fund enables us to celebrate the full range of contemporary writing at KWH by allowing us to pay honoraria to an astounding number of poets, novelists, translators, essayists, screenwriters, comedians, and others, year after year. This year's series included readings by novelists such as Leigh Stein; a panel discussion of crime fiction and genre writing, organized by Penn undergrad Jason Morgan (C'15); poetry readings by Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge, Laynie Browne, Lisa Jarnot, Ann Lauterbach, and others; a special Pataphysical Arts Night, which featured avant-garde writers and digital artists, including DJ Spooky, who Skyped in from Japan; and a discussion of Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons*

webcast live to ModPo students. Endowed by Roxanne Bok (C'81) and Scott Bok (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005–present).

Fund for Feminist Projects We're proud of the students and alumni who run our Feminism/s series, which is supported by the Fund for Feminist Projects. Through engaging and sometimes challenging programming, series curators Josh Herren (C'13) and Arielle Pardes (C'14) explore how writing, art, criticism, and other political acts can effect social change. Events this year included a performance by artist Karen Finley and a panel discussion on sex in journalism, featuring sex columnists Lena Chen and Julia Allison. Endowed by an anonymous donor.

Cheryl J. Family Fund for Fiction Programming The Cheryl J. Family Fund sponsors an annual reading by an up-and-coming novelist. This year, we were delighted to bring Roxane Gay to the Kelly Writers House. Gay's nonfiction and short stories are well known in venues like *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, and the *New York Times*, but this year marked her debut as a novelist, with the publication of her heartbreaking work, *An Untamed State*. We were pleased and honored to showcase her talent in advance of her book tour. Endowed by Cheryl J. Family (C'91).

Sylvia W. Kauders Fund The Kauders Fund allows us to arrange a series of intimate lunch programs, typically featuring writers of nonfiction. This year's Kauders series included talks with Mark Halperin, senior political analyst for *Time* magazine, and Chris Satullo, vice president for news and civic dialogue at WHYY. Endowed by Sylvia Kauders (CW'42).

Dark; Colleen Davis; Laoni Davis; Subrata De (in memory of Cecile Mitchell); Elizanda de la Sota; Anthony DeCurtis; Cathy Dee; Martha Deed; Patricia Denholm; Cliff and Jill Denker; Tom Devaney and Amy Sadao; Paul Deveney; Franklin Dines; Gregory Djanikian; Adam Dolgins; Howard and Paula Donsky; Sam Donsky; Charles Downey, III; Judy Drasin; Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof; Andrew Dulberg; Philip Eager and Mimi Calter; George Economou and Rochelle Owens; ElizaBeth Einiger; Sarah Eisen Nanus; Kent Ekberg; Carol Elias; Ed Elias; Melissa Enns; Ellen Ervin; Leigh Esposito Toal; Elizabeth Fader; Jenny Faelten Ford; Linda Falkenstein; Joan Farb; Jan Farr; Rob Faunce; Alexandra Feit; Harvey Feldman; Walt Fellman; William Fenrich; Megan Fenster; Alisa Field; Catherine Field; Al Filreis; Sam and Lois Filreis; Jean Findlay; Howard Fineman and Amy Nathan; Joe Finston; David and Barbara Fishback; Ann Fisher-Wirth; Marjorie Fiterman; Luellen Fletcher; Sallie Foster; Ben Fountain; Peggy Fox; Alan and Arlene Friedman; Tovia Freedman; Lise Funderburg; Roy and Vicki Gainsburg; Jenny Garcia; Mary Catherine Gaston; Steven and Teresa Tong Gee; Kari Gerber; Natalie Gerber; Paula Geyh; Maureen Gibney; Seamus and Mary Gilson; Joann Girsh; Lenore Gittis; Caroline Gittis Werther and Daniel Werther; Sarah Giuliani; Robert Gleason; Scott Glosserman; Mark Godwin; Noah Golden-Krasner; Sylvia Goldfarb; Nancy Golding; Ted and Judy Goldsmith; Alexandra Goldstein; Carol Lynn Goldstein; Jordan Goldstein; Arthur Goldwyn; Mackarness Goode; Marnie Gordon and Adam Frank; Jon Goulet; Lauren Grabelle Herrmann; Richard Graves; Thaddeus Gray; Patricia Green; Augusta Greenbaum and family; Alison Greenberg; Deborah Greenberg and Michael Winnick; Lisa Greene; Adele Aron Greenspun; Bruce and Karyn Greenwald; Liz Greenwood; Carla Griswold; Jane Gutman; Angel Guzman; Rosemary Hackett; Bonnie Hagan; Lauren Hall; Matt Hall; Alexandra Halpern; Mary Hannahan; William and Susan Harris; Joshua Heald; Janet Heettner and Peter Silverman; Carine Hejazi; Steven and Thomas Heller; Paul and Ceil Hendrickson; Leigh Hershkovich; Stephen and Jane Heumann; Elizabeth High; Lynette High; John Hoh and family; Brian and Sara Holland (in memory of Bob Lucid); Thea and David Howey; Thomas Huang; Jeffrey and Cynthia Hunt (in honor of Maddie Hunt's graduation); Michael Hyde; Alix Ingber; Sharon Ingraham; Jillian Ivey; Susan Iwanisziw; Katie Jackson; Alex Jacobs; Carolyn Jacobson; Jake Jacobson; Ali Jalili; Sonja Johanson; Kevin Johnson; Mark Johnson; David and Teresa Jones; Alexandra Jordan and Josh



SUPPORT FOR EVENTS, CONT.

The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer The Levin Endowed Fund allows our program coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. This year's Bernheimer Symposium featured Lynn Povich, who became the first woman senior editor of *Newsweek* in 1975, after being involved in a landmark lawsuit suing the magazine for sexual discrimination in their hiring practices. Povich held a conversation centered on her tell-all book, *The Good Girls Revolt*, in which she explored the question of how much further women have to go towards equality in journalism. Endowed by Kate Levin (GAS'96) in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Bernheimer.

The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment We partner with WXPB (88.5 FM) to produce a monthly one-hour radio show. Hosted by radio personality Michaela Majoun and produced by KWH program coordinator Alli Katz, LIVE at the Writers House showcases some of the most exciting up-and-comers in the Philly lit scene. Among the shows produced this year: a celebration of the 100th episode; a selection of local music writers; and a collaboration

with One Book, One Philadelphia featuring members of Warrior Writers who read their original work. Endowed by BigRoc.

The Bob Lucid Memorial Fund Robert "Bob" Lucid was a visionary teacher and mentor whose pedagogy helped inspire and structure our literary community. Friends of the Writers House established this fund in his memory, allowing us to host an annual fiction program that pays tribute to Bob as a continuing inspiration to all of us. This year's program was a reading by Guggenheim Fellow, Pew Fellow, and National Book Award finalist Ken Kalfus, who shared a brand-new short story, "Coup de Foudre." Endowed by Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75) and Ed Kane (C'71).

Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund The single largest programming gift in Writers House history, the Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund permanently endows our nonfiction programming, a range of events that include readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, memoirists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Among the Povich series highlights this year were political

journalist Matt Katz, sports columnist Bob Ford, "Modern Love" editor Daniel Jones, and Jezebel.com founder Anna Holmes. Endowed by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.

The Caroline Rothstein Fund in Support of Oral Poetry With the help of the Rothstein Fund we explore the oral tradition of poetry in its many forms — performance poetry, sound poetry, spoken word, and more. This year, the Rothstein Fund sponsored a special hip-hop-themed Speakeasy open mic night, an evening full of beats, rhymes, and visceral poetics. Endowed by Penn parents Nancy (CW'75) and Steven Rothstein in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C'06).

Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Fund We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman — beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse — with an annual poetry program. This year's Sussman Program featured sound poet Tracie Morris, whose delivery of her poems "The Mrs. Gets Her Ass Kicked" and "Africa(n)" resulted in one of the most intense performances our Arts Café has ever hosted. Endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.

WRITERS HOUSE ON THE ROAD

EVERY NOW AND THEN we take Writers House talent on the road to show off the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni. Such trips are made possible by generous hosts who welcome us into their homes and event spaces for fantastic KWH-style salons.

In the fall, Penn parent **Ken Karlan** (W'75) opened his Rittenhouse Square penthouse to Friends of the Writers House. KWH associate director **Julia Bloch** (GAS'11) shared delightful poems from her book *Letters to Kelly Clarkson*. **Camara Brown** (C'17) served up a heart-stopping spoken-word performance of her piece "Shred," originally performed as part of the Louder Than A Bomb teen poetry festival. Creative Writing faculty member **Sam Apple** had the audience crying with laughter as he read his short humor piece, "God's Workshop," which imagines the Bible being critiqued as a first draft by a class of MFA students. Editor in chief of campus literary translation magazine *DoubleSpeak* **Ross Karlan** (C'14) presented a short Jorge Luis Borges story in its original Spanish, and spoke about the various possibilities for translating such a piece given the nuance of the language. And Creative Writing faculty member **Beth Kephart** (C'82) read from *Handling the Truth*, her book about the art of memoir and how to teach it (at Penn — lucky us!). A few of us got misty-eyed as Al led us in a discussion of John Ashbery's poem "Just Walking Around," but in no time we were laughing together as we shared a tray of desserts catered by Parc — Ken's favorite restaurant.

This season also marked our twelfth annual Writers House New York event, which is hosted each year by longtime Friends of the Writers House **Susan and Louis Meisel**. Their beautiful SoHo gallery offered the perfect gathering space for 100 of our nearest and dearest New York

area pals. Guests were treated to a delectable assortment of cheeses and crudités and were entertained with readings by *Brain Pickings* founder **Maria Popova** (C'07), poet **Madeleine Wattenbarger** (C'16), *Slate* magazine columnist and Culture Gabfest podcast host **Stephen Metcalf**, essayist **Elie Sokoloff** (C'17), and beloved member of the Penn Creative Writing faculty **Anthony DeCurtis**. Intrepid audience members joined **Al Filreis** in a collective close reading of "Poet's Work" by Lorine Niedecker, a nineteen-word poem whose brevity belies its remarkable depth. This annual event is one of our favorites, not only because it allows us to re-connect with old friends, but because it makes a real difference; contributions from attendees raised nearly \$3,000 for our **Student Recruitment Fund**.

We returned to New York in the spring thanks to new Friends of the Writers House **Alan** (W'87) and **Kim Hartman**, who hosted more than forty KWH fans in their Upper East Side living room. **Matt Ocks** (C'06) staged a scene from an original play, handily playing all parts (including stage directions). **Katie Hartman** (C'17) read from an essay about the referentiality of language that she wrote while a student in the Writers House Fellows seminar. 2014-2015 Writers House Junior Fellow **Hannah White** (C'14) demonstrated a remarkable versatility by reading poetry and prose. Penn Creative Writing faculty favorite **Charles Bernstein** delighted the audience with a series of translations of ancient poems. And finally, we took advantage of the intimate setting to team up — all 40 of us — on a close reading of the poem "Overhearing" by Rae Armantrout. Our generous hosts sent everyone home with a party favor: a bag of delicious caramels and a note wishing partygoers a sweet summer.

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Amy Bauman; Allan and Dale Bell; David Biro; Eric Brotman; Maggie Cordish; The Cusack Family; Bob and Marcia D'Augustine (in honor of Allie Morgan D'Augustine); Cheryl Family and Ken Saji; Stephen and Laura Fromm; Jody Girgenti; Monice and Neil Grabowski; Adam Groothuis; Halpern Foundation; Joan Harrison; James Kimmel; Marcy and Henry Klein; Margie and Bob Labarre; Drs. Richard and Wendy Hurst Levine (in honor of Alexandra S. Levine, C'12); Andrew and Elizabeth Lustbader; Lucy Oh Cook; Marjorie Perloff; Hadley Davis Rierison and Lee Rierison; Emily Seslowe Rosenfeld and Alan Rosenfeld; David Sussman; Sarah and John Van Doren; Lori and Erica Wachs; Dan and Jill Wallen; Andy Wolk; Beth Zemle and Phil Rozenzweig.

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The Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Fund The Weber Fund allows us to explore the art of clear business writing through an annual symposium that celebrates a financial writer with a knack for lucid prose. Our fifth annual Weber Symposium featured Matt Yglesias, business and economics correspondent for *Slate* and author of *The Rent is Too Damn High*. Endowed by Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.

The Wexler Fund for Programs at the Kelly Writers House The Wexler Fund supports all kinds of initiatives, allowing students and others to think creatively about what can happen in our space. This year, the fund sponsored lunches with visiting authors, several student-led initiatives including Speakeasy (our monthly open mic night) and The Body Electric (a new poetry writing collective), and a daylong celebration of the legendary multi-genre writer Samuel Delany. Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler.

Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. In 2013-14 the fund allowed us to host conversations with Irving Roth, who spoke about his experiences as a survivor of Auschwitz, and poet Pierre Joris, who helped us explore the complex poetry of Holocaust survivor Paul Celan. Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler.

Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers Thanks to globally-minded faculty and students and the financial support of our Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers, we can offer programming that is truly world-class. Our Writers Without Borders series this year featured Dutch sound artist Jaap Blonk, Burmese poet Zeyar Lynn, French-Italian conceptual writer Alessandro de Francesco with translator Belle Cushing, and a groundbreaking panel discussion featuring five female Iranian-American novelists. Funded annually by Seth Ginns (C'00).



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