

Contributors' Notes

Douglas H. Bennett is a first-year graduate student pursuing his M.A. in English / Creative Writing and his M.S. in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (Creative Writing, History of Technology and Astrophysics). Douglas has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Georgia Tech and is a native of Charleston, South Carolina: "What town do you come from? I think you have something on your shirt."

Joshua E. Borgmann, a second-year graduate student in English / Creative Writing, is originally from the great cultural wasteland of Nebraska: "Do you ever wonder if your pets get really pissed at you for cages and stuff? Well, maybe they do."

Taiyon Coleman is originally from Chicago. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Iowa State University. Although Tai writes in several different genres, she is currently a first year poet in the University of Minnesota's MFA Creative Writing Program in the Twin Cities.

Emily Ekle is a junior in English from Farmington, IA: "This poem originated as an email I had sent to someone at the onset of our relationship."

Danny Eness: "XDPE is a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, having served two tours in the Rhode Island militia before transferring to the Continental Army in 1779. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for multiple acts of courage at the encounter at Oriskany. He is attending graduate school in English at ISU on papers signed by former President John Adams, and with grants from the Federalist Foundation. This is the first time his work appears in print, since the third anniversary issue of Thomas Paine's Common Sense. Danny, as his friends call him, is not generally recognized as a very effective writer. He does, however, hold U.S. Patent 489-CK42-081, a theoretical distilling mechanism for naturally produced laxatives."

Stephen Finders is a graduate student in Fine Arts.

Carissa Gavin is a freshman in Pre-Architecture, from Dubuque, Iowa: “No pertinent information about me, just a college student who spends most of my time in the studio, and wishing that Physics didn’t exist.”

Megan Helmers is a second-year student who has wisely avoided declaring a major—so far. She is from Sibley, Iowa: “The sand in this photo is actually gravel, waiting to be spread around the sandpit in my tiny hometown. The way it was piled made me think of cliché desert scenes you see in movies, so I had a friend stagger up the ‘sand dune’ and collapse. I thought it humorous that I was able to take a desert scene photograph in Northwest Iowa.”

Jen Hirt is a first-year graduate student in English / Creative Writing. She grew up in Valley City, Ohio and earned a B.A. from Hiram College: “His Best Haiku From Sixth Grade” is based on this boy who would take my papers from the trash and save them. In high school, he anonymously sent me pieces of those old papers, as a sign of his love. I later found out he had volumes of angstful love poems about how I did not know he even existed. So my idea was to show the poem behind the poem—all the dangerous thoughts left unsaid when a crush turns into obsession.”

Audrae Jones: “in 75 words or less: acquaintance, androgyne, antique junk collector, best friend, bibliophile, chauffeur, computer geek, counselor, daughter, financier, flirt, folk artist, graduate student, in-house medic, maintenance engineer, maniac, mediator, misguided genius, mother (twice), movie buff, optimist, pessimist, pet owner, purchasing agent, quirky hippie-chick, significant other, sister, teacher, woman, writer, youth hockey fan, and zen therapist. She’s often deluded, but more often enchanted. She’s terminally curious, perpetually passionate, and secretly suspects that she’s addicted to sleep-deprivation.”

Christine Kieltyka is a first-year M.A. student in English / Creative Writing who lives in Story City, Iowa with her son, two dogs, and two cats. These works appear in her chapbook, *A Clear Blue Stream*.

Barbara F. King, from Cedar Falls, Iowa, is a senior in Horticulture emphasizing Fruit and Vegetable Production and Management: “This is for Bibbins. Thanks for everything. . .lentils to lexicons.”

Joe McGann has declined to defend himself. He is, however, from Pekin, Illinois.

Tarisa A.M. Matsumoto is a first year English / Creative Writing graduate student from Gardena, California. She is an avid sports fan and participant and spends her time when not writing by caring for her five sea monkeys. She is eager to begin work on her thesis and would like to thank all her fellow grad students who have, in the past two semesters, broadened her scope of what she can write about and how she can write it.

Todd Maxfield is a recurring graduate student in English / Creative Writing and the founder/leader of indie-band Joker’s Poem and the owner of Slunk Records. In addition to the reissue of his fiction book *Clover Tent* and his book of poetry, *On Modern Vampirism or Boiling Vampiric Characters in Emily’s Stomach*, Todd is working on releasing a spoken word CD titled *Attack of Poem X*. He spends most of his time wrestling professionally under the pseudonym KING TODDO, MASTER OF THE TEXAS DEATHMATCH.

Stephanie Pearo is a sophomore in Art & Design and Advertising from Minneapolis, Minnesota: “This photograph was taken this winter in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Minnesota.”

Solomon Pech is a senior in Fine Arts and Psychology.

Andy Segedi, a second-year graduate student in English / Creative Writing, is from Cleveland, Ohio: “The line ‘We’re gonna need a bigger boat,’ is actually from the film *Jaws*. I don’t think I’ve ever written anything that has a title fitting the piece better than this one. I also don’t think I’ve ever written anything more depressing than this piece. Suffice it to say that I did my homework—if any of my facts are false, that’s probably because the situation has worsened since I was doing my research. Have a nice day!”

Kate Taylor, a second-year (soon-to-graduate) graduate student in English / Creative Writing, is from Baxter, Iowa.

Jennifer Wright: “For contributor’s note, please choose the *best* answer from the following:

- a) Once submitted a classified ad in a local newspaper reading: Will Kill for Coffee (or was that the bumper sticker she stuck on her 1969 Lincoln with suicide doors?).
- b) Spent most of 1997 working off gambling debts and attending GA meetings but admits it’s had no impact on her life.
- c) Owns three cordless phones, one of which she stores underneath the bathroom sink.
- d) Is a first year graduate student in English / Creative Writing from Pennsylvania
- e) All of the Above
- f) None of the Above”