Jerry Coyne

Jerry A. Coyne is a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago. He received a B.S. in Biology from the College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. in evolutionary biology at Harvard University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of California at Davis, he took his first academic position as assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at The University of Maryland.

In 1996 he joined the faculty of The University of Chicago and has been there ever since. Coyne’s work has been largely concerned with the genetics of species differences, aimed at understanding the evolutionary processes that produce new species.

He has written 115 scientific papers and more than 130 popular articles, book reviews, and columns, as well as a scholarly book about his research area—Speciation, co-authored with H. Allen Orr—and a trade book about the evidence for evolution—Why Evolution is True, which was a New York Times best-seller.

Daniel Adams

Daniel Adams (b. 1956, Miami, FL) is a Professor of Music at Texas Southern University in Houston. Adams holds a Doctor of Musical Arts (1985) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Master of Music from the University of Miami (1981) and a Bachelor of Music from Louisiana State University (1978). He currently serves as the College Music Society Board Member for Composition.

Adams is the composer of numerous published musical compositions and the author of many articles and reviews on topics related to Twentieth Century percussion music, music pedagogy, and the music of Texas. His most recent article, “Indeterminate Passages as Temporal and Spatial Components of Three Selected Compositions for Snare Drum Ensemble” was published in the Fall 2013 issue of the Journal of the National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors.


Adams has served as a panelist and lecturer nationally and internationally. In 2011 he presented, by invitation, a composition master class at Ewha University in Seoul, South Korea Adams’s music has been performed throughout the United States, and in Spain, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Turkey, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, and South Korea.

His music is recorded on Capstone Records, Ravello Records, Potenza, Albany, and Summit Records.

Dale Ahlquist

Dale Ahlquist is President of the American Chesterton Society, creator and host of the EWTN series “G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense,” and Publisher of Gilbert Magazine. He is the author of four books, and has edited eight books of Chesterton’s writings. He is a Senior Fellow of the Chesterton Library at Oxford, and is considered one of the leading Chesterton scholars in the world.

Dale has given more than 600 lectures at universities, conferences, and other institutions, including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Notre Dame, Oxford, the Vatican Forum in Rome, and the House of Lords in London.

He is also the co-founder of Chesterton Academy, a classical high school in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has been rated one of the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the nation, and has been the springboard for the Chesterton Schools network, which includes several new high schools around the country using the same model.

Dale received a B.A. from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a M.A. from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He and his wife Laura have six children.

“Allah on Chesterton is like Plato on Socrates, or Boswell on Johnson.” New Oxford Review.

http://www.chesterton.org/about-us/dale-ahlquist/
Crystal Allen

Crystal Allen is the author of middle grade novels, How Lamar’s Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy (Balzar and Bray 2011), The Laura Line (Balzar and Bray 2013), and book 1 in the series, The Magnificent Mya Tibbs, Spirit Week Showdown, scheduled for release in January of 2016. Crystal lives in Sugar Land, Texas with her husband, Reggie, two sons, Phillip and Joshua, and dog, Angel.

**The Laura Line**

It seems as if everyone at school makes fun of thirteen-year-old Laura Dyson for being overweight. All she wants is to be accepted. To make matters worse, her history teacher plans a field trip to the old rundown slave shack on her grandmother’s property! Laura knows if her classmates can’t accept her for who she is now, they never will once they see the shack. Her grandmother insists the shack is a monument to the strong women in their family—the Laura Line, but Laura still wants the fieldtrip cancelled. When a careless mistake puts the shack—and the Laura Line—in jeopardy, Laura must decide what is truly important to her.

**The Magnificent Mya Tibbs: Spirit Week Showdown**

Nine-year-old Mya Tibbs is boot-scootin’ excited for the best week of the whole school year—SPIRIT WEEK! She and her megapopular best friend, Naomi Jackson, even made a pinky promise to be Spirit Week partners so they can win the big prize: special VIP tickets to the Fall Festival! But when the partner picking goes horribly wrong, Mya gets paired with Mean Connie Tate—the biggest bully in school. And she can’t get out of it! Now Naomi is “friend-ending” mad at Mya for breaking a promise—even though Mya couldn’t help it. Can Mya work with Mean Connie to win the VIP tickets and get her best friend back?

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Zach Anner

*If At Birth You Don’t Succeed* is Zach Anner’s irreverent look at finding his passion and path—even when it’s paved with epic misadventure. Unfazed by the daily challenges of cerebral palsy, Zach gives us an exuberant, behind-the-scenes look at his journey from OWN’s reality TV to internet fame, including his collaborations with Rainn Wilson’s “Have a Little Faith” and the making of “Workout Wednesday”—his YouTube program about loving your body, regardless of its limitations, that has garnered over 10 million viewers. Throughout, Zach urges his fans to live life on their own terms, as he indulges his insatiable appetite to travel the world, find true love, and eat at as many Olive Gardens as is humanly possible.

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**IF AT BIRTH YOU DON’T SUCCEED**

Zach Anner

If At Birth You Don’t Succeed
Chuck Bailey

A lawyer in private practice, Bailey has also served as assistant general counsel to Texas Governor William P. Clements and chief of staff to Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock. He is the author of Texas Political Memorabilia: Buttons, Bumper Stickers, and Broadsides.

Picturing Texas Politics: A Photographic History from Sam Houston to Rick Perry

With historical text by Patrick Cox and Introduction by John Anderson

Picturing Texas Politics presents the first photographic album of Texas politicians and political campaigns ever assembled. Chuck Bailey has searched archives, museums, libraries, and private collections to find photographs that have never been published, as well as iconic images, such as Russell Lee’s pictures of one of Ralph Yarborough’s campaigns. These photographs are arranged into four chronological sections, each one introduced by historian Patrick Cox, who also provides informative photo captions. The photographs display power and political savvy from the early Republic to Lyndon Johnson and Bob Bullock; unmatched dedication to Texas in the Hobby and Bush families; and the growing influence of women in politics, from Miriam “Ma” Ferguson to Barbara Jordan, Ann Richards, and Kay Bailey Hutchison. With Sam Houston’s jaguar vest, W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel’s hillbilly band, a famous governor with an ostrich, and prominent Texans eating watermelons, shooting guns, and riding horses, this is Texas politics at its liveliest and best.

Varsha Bajaj

Born in India, Varsha Bajaj is the award winning author of How Many Kisses Do You Want Tonight? Illustrated by Ivan Bates (Little Brown, 2004) and T is for Taj Mahal: An India Alphabet book illustrated by Robert Crawford (Sleeping Bear Press, March 2011).

Her middle grade novel, Abby Spencer goes to Bollywood, (Albert Whitman & Company, 2014) is on the Spirit of Texas, middle grade reading list, was shortlisted for the Cybils and won the SCBWI Crystal Kite award.

Her picture book, This is Our Baby, Born Today, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler, will be published by Nancy Paulsen books in September 2016.

Varsha lives in Houston with her husband, two children and dog, Scamper.

Website: http://www.varshabajaj.com
Dan Barker

Dan Barker is co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and co-host of Freethought Radio. After 19 years as an evangelical minister, Dan “saw the light” and announced his atheism in 1984. His first public appearance as an atheist was on Oprah Winfrey’s “AM Chicago.” Since that time he has traveled extensively, lecturing and performing on college campuses, and participating in more than 110 public debates defending atheism. A former composer of Christian songs and musicals (for which he still receives royalties), Dan is now a jazz pianist and writer of freethought music, including the albums Beware of Dogma, Friendly, Neighborhood Atheist, and Adrift on a Star. Dan has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and lives with his wife (and co-president) Annie Laurie Gaylor in Madison, Wisconsin.

Life Driven Purpose

Every thinking person wants to lead a life of meaning and purpose. For thousands of years, holy books have told us that such a life is available only through obedience and submission to some higher power. Today, the faithful keep popular devotional books and tracts within easy reach on bedside tables and mobile devices, all communicating this common message: Life is meaningless without God. Former pastor Dan Barker eloquently, powerfully, and rationally upends this long-held belief in Life Driven Purpose. Offering words of enrichment, emancipation, and inspiration, he reminds us how millions of atheists lead happy, loving, moral, and purpose-filled lives. Practicing what he preaches, he also demonstrates through his own personal journey that life is valuable for its own sake—that meaning and purpose come not from above, but from within.

John Barr

John McKee Barr is a professor of history at Lone Star College–Kingwood. John Barr joined their faculty in 2008. Previous to his appointment at Lone Star, he taught history in middle school for six years and was a high school AP U.S. history teacher for eighteen years at Kingwood High School in north Houston, Texas.

John received his Ph.D. from the University of Houston in 2010 under the supervision of Eric Walther, author of The Fire-Eaters and William Lowndes Yancey and the Coming of the Civil War. John teach a variety of courses at Lone Star – Kingwood, including the survey of U.S. History. He also teaches courses entitled “Political Novels” (an idea of Larry Arnhart’s), “The Emancipators: Charles Darwin, Abraham Lincoln, and the Making of the Modern World,” and “Revolution and Counterrevolution.”

In addition to this book, John Barr has published a chapter on African-American Memory and Lincoln in Lincoln’s Enduring Legacy and the Lincoln Herald (with David Silkenat), and an excerpt from Loathing Lincoln will appear in the forthcoming issue of the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

About Loathing Lincoln

While most Americans count Abraham Lincoln among the most beloved and admired former presidents, a dedicated minority has long viewed him as not only the worst president in the country’s history but also as a criminal who defied the Constitution and advanced federal power and the idea of racial equality. In Loathing Lincoln, historian John McKee Barr surveys the broad array of criticisms about Abraham Lincoln that emerged when he stepped onto the national stage, expanded during the Civil War, and continued to evolve after his death and into the present.

The first panoramic study of Lincoln’s critics, Barr’s work offers both an analysis of Lincoln in historical memory and an examination of how his critics—on both the right and left—have frequently reflected the anxiety and discontent Americans felt about their lives. From northern abolitionists upset about the slow pace of emancipation, to Confederates who condemned him as a “black Republican” and despot, to Americans who blamed him for the civil rights movement, to, more recently, libertarians who accuse him of trampling the Constitution and creating the modern welfare state, Lincoln's detractors have always been a vocal minority, but not one without influence.

By meticulously exploring the most significant arguments against Lincoln, Barr traces the rise of the president’s most strident critics and links most of them to a distinct right-wing or neo-Confederate political agenda. According to Barr, their hostility to a more egalitarian America and opposition to any use of federal power to bring about such goals led them to portray Lincoln as an imperialistic president who grossly overstepped the bounds of his office. In contrast, liberals criticized him for not doing enough to bring about emancipation or ensure lasting racial equality. Lincoln’s conservative and libertarian foes, however, constituted the vast majority of his detractors. More recently, Lincoln’s most vociferous critics have adamantly opposed Barack Obama and his policies, many of them referencing Lincoln in their attacks on the current president. In examining these individuals and groups, Barr’s study provides a deeper understanding of American political life and the nation itself.
Chris Barton

Chris Barton is the author of picture books including bestseller Shark Vs. Train and the Sibert Honor-winning The Day-Glo Brothers. His latest books include 'The Nutcracker' Comes to America, The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch, and Attack! Boss! Cheat Code!. He has 12 more books on the way in 2016-18 and could probably use a nap. Chris and his wife, novelist Jennifer Ziegler (Revenge of the Flower Girls, How Not to Be Popular), live in Austin, Texas, with their family. For more information about Chris, his books, and his presentations to students, writers, educators, and librarians, please visit www.chrisbarton.info.

**Mighty Truck**

Meet Clarence, a rickety old truck who goes from average to awesome when an unexpected trip through a mysterious truck wash transforms him.

With pumped-up tires, a revved-up engine, and a squeaky-clean exterior, Clarence becomes a town hero! In his first adventure, Clarence—aka “Mighty Truck”—pulls a friend from the mud, rescues a kitten, and stops a loose beam from destroying Axleburg.

Fans of Disney’s Cars and Thomas the Tank Engine will love this action-packed picture book, illustrated by Troy Cummings and written by bestselling author Chris Barton (of Shark vs. Train)!

ReShonda Tate Billingsley

ReShonda Tate Billingsley always did have an active imagination. From making up stories to crafting award-winning poems, the national bestselling author has always maintained a love for telling stories. After numerous rejections from publishers, ReShonda stepped out on faith, established her own publishing company, and released her debut novel, My Brother’s Keeper. It’s a move that paid off as megahouse publisher, Simon & Schuster/Pocket Books, picked up the book and, to date, has published all of ReShonda’s books.

A former television and radio news reporter, ReShonda is an editor for the Houston Defender Newspaper, as well as a professional editor, ghostwriter and literary consultant. She has worked as a reporter for The National Enquirer and as an anchor and reporter for NBC, ABC and FOX television stations in Beaumont, TX, Oklahoma City, OK and Houston, TX. She left her job at FOX 26 News in Houston in 2007 to write full-time. And write she does...

ReShonda is the national bestselling author of 37 books. Her sophomore novel, Let the Church Say Amen, has been made into a movie, directed by actress Regina King, produced by Queen Latifah’s Flavor Unit Productions, and executive-produced by Bishop T.D. Jakes. The movie received rave reviews after its August 29, 2015 BET premiere. ReShonda, who served as a consultant, also makes an appearance in the movie. Her entire Amen series, as well as the novel I Know I’ve Been Changed, has been optioned by BET. TV One will be bringing The Devil Is a Lie and The Secret She Kept to the screen in 2016.

A much sought-after public speaker, in 2012, ReShonda won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature for her book Say Amen, Again and was nominated again in 2013 for her book The Secret She Kept. She has won numerous awards for her journalism, fiction and poetry writing skills. She is a five-time winner of the National Association of Black Journalists Spirit in the Words competition. Considered one of the top Inspirational Fiction authors in the country, her books remain a staple on the Bestseller’s list and have been featured in USA Today and Ebony Magazine as Summer Sizzlers. In 2010, ReShonda was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

ReShonda, along with National Best Selling author, Victoria Christopher Murray, is the co-founder of Brown Girls Books, a boutique publishing company aimed at producing quality books from fresh voices and fan favorites. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Jack & Jill of America,

ReShonda is a former professor of Broadcast Journalism at Langston University. She is married to Dr. Miron Billingsley, a Vice Chancellor at North Carolina Central University. The Billingsleys have three children ages 15, 13 and 8.
Douglas Biow

Douglas Biow is Superior Oil Company-Linward Shivers Centennial Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, as well as the Director of its Center for European Studies. He is the author of In Your Face: Professional Improprieties and the Art of Being Conspicuous in Sixteenth-Century Italy; Doctors, Ambassadors, Secretaries: Humanism and Professions in Renaissance Italy; and The Culture of Cleanliness in Renaissance Italy, among other books.

“An elegant, erudite, and polemical book that most assuredly makes an important contribution to the literature on Renaissance individuality and male identity.”—James R. Farr, Purdue University

“Douglas Biow offers a spirited and refreshing account of the ways Renaissance men carved out space for individuality over against the norms of their professions and communities.”—John Jeffries Martin, Duke University

In recent decades, scholars have vigorously revised Jacob Burckhardt’s notion that the free, untrammeled, and essentially modern Western individual emerged in Renaissance Italy. Douglas Biow does not deny the strong cultural and historical constraints that placed limits on identity formation in the early modern period. Still, as he contends in this witty, reflective, and generously illustrated book, the category of the individual was important and highly complex for a variety of men in this particular time and place, for both those who belonged to the elite and those who aspired to be part of it.

Biow explores the individual in light of early modern Italy’s new patronage systems, educational programs, and work opportunities in the context of an increased investment in professionalization, the changing status of artisans and artists, and shifting attitudes about the ideology of work, fashion, and etiquette. He turns his attention to figures familiar (Benvenuto Cellini, Baldassare Castiglione, Niccolò Machiavelli, Jacopo Tintoretto, Giorgio Vasari) and somewhat less so (the surgeon-physician Leonardo Fioravanti, the metallurgist Vannoccio Biringuccio). One could excel as an individual, he demonstrates, by possessing an indefinable nescio quid, by acquiring, theorizing, and putting into practice a distinct body of professional knowledge, or by displaying the exclusively male adornment of impressively designed facial hair. Focusing on these and other matters, he reveals how we significantly impoverish our understanding of the past if we dismiss the notion of the individual from our narratives of the Italian and the broader European Renaissance.

Gwen Bradford

Gwen Bradford is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Rice University, where she works on value theory and normative ethics. Achievement is a central focus of her work and she is the author Achievement (Oxford University Press, 2015), as well as other work on wellbeing and value. Bradford earned her doctoral degree from Yale University in 2010, and has been a Faculty Fellow at the Murphy Institute at Tulane University.

From the magisterial to the mundane, achievements play a role in the best kind of human life, and many people think that they are of such importance that they are worth pursuing at the expense of serious sacrifices. Yet for all that, no philosophers have devoted more than a few short passages to discerning what makes achievements valuable, or even what makes something an achievement to begin with.

Gwen Bradford presents the first systematic account of what achievements are, and what it is about them that makes them worth doing. It turns out that more things count as achievements than we might have thought, and that what makes them valuable isn’t something we usually think of as good. It turns out that difficulty, perhaps surprisingly, plays a central part in characterizing achievements and their value: achievements are worth the effort. But just what does it mean for something to be difficult, and why is it valuable? A thorough analysis of the nature of difficulty is given, and ultimately, the best account of the value of achievements taps into perfectionist axiology. But not just any perfectionist theory of value will do, and in this book we see a new perfectionist theory developed that succeeds in capturing the value of achievement better than its predecessors.
Andrew Bradley

Andy Bradley is proof-positive that a sustained audio engineering career allows for a multitude of accomplishments:

- Chief Audio Engineer / Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music for 30+ years
- Chief Engineer & Part-Owner / Sugar Hill Studios for 30+ years
- Adjunct Professor/Music 733 at Rice University/Shepherd School of Music
- Co-Author of “House of Hits” – a biography of the 73-year-old Sugar Hill facility
- 25-Year Member of NARAS (The Grammys)
- Over 1000 Commercial Music Releases for every major label in almost every music genre imaginable

Currently working out of Wire Road Studios, Houston, a world class facility

Versatile would be an understated adjective to describe Andy’s varied recording career. He is comfortable in any music genre from shredding electrics to acoustic guitars, from orchestral instruments to a bluegrass hoe-down – He simply has done it all! Andy came to Wire Road Studios in January 2015 to continue his legacy of engineering major music projects for prominent artists including, but not limited to:

- Non-Classical:

- Classical

- Latin
  - Little Joe y La Familia, Emilio Navaiz, Elsa Garcia, La Fiebre, Xelencia, David Olivarez, The Home Town Boys, Norma Zenteno and numerous others.

Doug Brode

Doug Brode is a screenwriter, playwright, novelist, graphic novelist, film historian, and multi-award-winning journalist who has written nearly forty books on movies and the mass media.

Whether you judge by box office receipts, industry awards, or critical accolades, science fiction films are the most popular movies now being produced and distributed around the world. Nor is this phenomenon new. Sci-fi filmmakers and audiences have been exploring fantastic planets, forbidden zones, and lost continents ever since George Méliés’ 1902 film A Trip to the Moon. In this highly entertaining and knowledgeable book, film historian and pop culture expert Douglas Brode picks the one hundred greatest sci-fi films of all time.

Brode’s list ranges from today’s blockbusters to forgotten gems, with surprises for even the most informed fans and scholars. He presents the movies in chronological order, which effectively makes this book a concise history of the sci-fi film genre. A striking (and in many cases rare) photograph accompanies each entry, for which Brode provides a numerical rating, key credits and cast members, brief plot summary, background on the film’s creation, elements of the moviemaking process, analysis of the major theme(s), and trivia. He also includes fun outtakes, including his top ten lists of Fifties sci-fi movies, cult sci-fi, least necessary movie remakes, and “so bad they’re great” classics—as well as the ten worst sci-fi movies (“those highly ambitious films that promised much and delivered nil”). So climb aboard spaceship Brode and journey to strange new worlds from Metropolis (1927) to Guardians of the Galaxy (2014).
Jack Caldwell

Jack Caldwell is a published author of historical novels. Born in Thibodaux, LA, he lived and worked in the Greater New Orleans region for forty-seven years before falling victim to Katrina. He and his wife now live in Venice, FL. One of the few male writers in the Jane Austen-flavored historical romance genre, Mr. Caldwell is the author of eight Austenesque historical fiction novels.

Published by Sourcebooks Landmark:
- Pemberley Ranch, The Three Colonels: Jane Austen’s Fighting Men

Published by White Soup Press:
- Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner, The Companion of His Future Life,
- The Plains of Chalmette: a Story of Crescent City, Bourbon Street Nights: Volume One of Crescent City, Elysian Dreams: Volume Two of Crescent City, Ruin and Renewal: Volume Three of Crescent City

About Ruin & Renewal
2005. The greatest natural disaster in American history is fast approaching New Orleans. Friend, family, and foe alike will meet their fates as Hurricane Katrina tries to drown the Gulf Coast.

Who will live and who will not? The survivors must pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. Can the kindness of strangers make up for the bureaucratic bumbling of government officials?

Will those left in the Crescent City ever find normalcy again?

Ndugu Chancler

Ndugu Chancler is a Drummer, Percussionist, Producer, Composer, Clinician, and Educator.

As a studio musician, Ndugu has recorded with such greats as Frank Sinatra, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, John Lee Hooker, Kenny Rogers, and Michael Jackson. Working on “Thriller” and “Bad”, Ndugu was the drummer on the hit single “Billie Jean”. Ndugu has also played on a number of Movie Soundtracks including, “An Officer and a Gentleman”, “Indecent Proposal”, and “The Color Purple”

As a songwriter Ndugu co-wrote hits for Santana including “Dance Sister Dance”, “Reach For It” for George Duke, and “Let It Whip” for the Dazz Band. Ndugu has also played on a number of Movie Soundtracks including, “An Officer and a Gentleman”, “Indecent Proposal”, and “The Color Purple”

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As an educator, Ndugu has worked with the Jazz Mentorship Program in Los Angeles, Faculty of the Stanford Jazz Workshop and the Diaz Music Institute. Ndugu does clinics all over the world.

Ndugu Chancler is an Adjunct Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies at The University of Southern California, Flora L. Thornton School of Music.
Deborah Cramer

Deborah Cramer lives with her family at the edge of a salt marsh in Gloucester, Massachusetts, where each year she awaits the arrival of horseshoe crabs and alewives in tidal creeks, and the passage of migrating sandpipers and herons. She writes about science, nature, and the environment, and is a visiting scholar at MIT.

Cramer has written three books, Great Waters: An Atlantic Passage, Smithsonian Ocean: Our Water Our World, and The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey. She has lectured about her writing and the sea on both sides of the Atlantic, at science and maritime museums, at major environmental and teachers’ organizations, and at undergraduate and graduate schools in oceanography and journalism. Her writing has most recently appeared in the Boston Globe and on the op-ed page of the New York Times.

**The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey**

Each year tiny sandpipers—red knots—undertake a near miraculous 19,000 mile journey from one end of the earth to the other and back. In this firsthand account, Deborah Cramer accompanies them on their extraordinary odyssey along the length of two continents, tracking birds from remote Tierra del Fuego to the icy Arctic. On the full moon of spring’s highest tides, she seeks out horseshoe crabs, ancient, primordial animals whose eggs are essential to migrating shorebirds, and whose blue blood, unbeknownst to most people, safeguards human health. The Narrow Edge offers unique insight into how the lives of humans, red knots and horseshoe crabs are intertwined, and is an inspiring portrait of loss and resilience, of the tenacity of birds, and the courage of the many people who bird by bird and beach by beach, keep red knots flying.

Rob DeSalle

Rob DeSalle works in molecular systematics, microbial evolution, and genomics. His current research concerns the development of bioinformatic tools to handle large-scale genomics problems using phylogenetic systematic approaches. Rob has worked closely with colleagues from Cold Spring Harbor Labs, New York University, and the New York Botanical Garden on seed plant genomics and development of tools to establish gene family membership on a genome-wide scale. His group also focuses on microbial genomics, taxonomy, and systematics. In particular, they approach tree-of-life questions concerning microbial life using whole genome information. He also dabbles in Human evolutionary questions and is the co-Curator of the AMNH Spitzer Hall of Human Origins.

**Race? Debunking A Scientific Myth**

Race has provided the rationale and excuse for some of the worst atrocities in human history. Yet, according to many biologists, physical anthropologists, and geneticists, there is no valid scientific justification for the concept of race. To be more precise, although there is clearly some physical basis for the variations that underlie perceptions of race, clear boundaries among “races” remain highly elusive from a purely biological standpoint. Differences among human populations that people intuitively view as “racial” are not only superficial but are also of astonishingly recent origin.

In this intriguing and highly accessible book, physical anthropologist Ian Tattersall and geneticist Rob DeSalle, both senior scholars from the American Museum of Natural History, explain what human races actually are—and are not—and place them within the wider perspective of natural diversity. They explain that the relative isolation of local populations of the newly evolved human species during the last Ice Age—when Homo sapiens was spreading across the world from an African point of origin—has now begun to reverse itself, as differentiated human populations come back into contact and interbreed. Indeed, the authors suggest that all of the variety seen outside of Africa seems to have both accumulated and started reintegrating within only the last 50,000 or 60,000 years—the blink of an eye, from an evolutionary perspective.

The overarching message of Race? Debunking a Scientific Myth is that scientifically speaking, there is nothing special about racial variation within the human species. These distinctions result from the working of entirely mundane evolutionary processes, such as those encountered in other organisms.
Dave DeWitt

Dave DeWitt is a food historian and one of the foremost authorities in the world on chile peppers, spices, and spicy foods. He got his start in electronic media! After working his way through undergraduate and graduate school as a radio announcer, including a stint at top-rated WRVA Radio in Richmond, VA, Dave owned audio/video production companies in both Richmond and Albuquerque, NM. He wrote, produced, and voiced hundreds of radio and TV commercials as well as 30-minute corporate videos.

After moving to New Mexico in 1974, he wrote and hosted the “Captain Space” late-night TV show, which was top-rated in its Saturday midnight time slot on KOAT-TV (1975-76), beating both “Saturday Night Live” and “Star Trek” in the Arbitron ratings. He later produced and hosted a local country music show on KGGM-TV called “A Country Affair.” Moving on, he specialized in on-camera and voice-over talent and was one of the national voices of GMC Truck.

Dave’s interest in chile peppers led to his writing numerous articles on the subject, and in 1984, St. Martin’s Press published his book, The Fiery Cuisines, co-authored with Nancy Gerlach. In 1988, Dave and Nancy approached publisher Robert Spiegel, and the three launched Chile Pepper magazine with a mere 212 subscribers. By 1995, the magazine had surpassed 50,000 subscribers. Chile Pepper magazine led to book projects, including The Whole Chile Pepper Book (Little, Brown, 1990), which sold 120,000 copies. In 1996, Spiegel sold Chile Pepper and Dave moved on to launch Fiery Foods & Barbecue magazine, which he edited and published until 2008, when he closed it to focus on the Fiery Foods & Barbecue SuperSite (now entitled Burn Central), his huge, highly trafficked website with 600+ articles and thousands of recipes. His best-selling books include The Pepper Garden (gardening guide, 1993), The Hot Sauce Bible (food history/cookbook, 1996), The Chile Pepper Encyclopedia (reference, 1999) The Spicy Food Lover’s Bible (food history, cookbook, 2005). He continues to write books about chile peppers and spicy food, including The Complete Chile Pepper Book (gardening guide/cookbook, 2009), co-authored with Dr. Paul Bosland, the renowned chile pepper breeder at New Mexico State University. Dave also wrote, hosted, and co-produced, with the NMSU media arts department, the first video documentary on chile peppers, “Heat Up Your Life.” National TV appearances for Dave include “The Martha Stewart Show,” “American Journal,” Cable News Network, “The Today Show,” “Home with Gary Collins,” “CBS Sunday Morning,” “Mythbusters,” “Extreme Conventions” on the Travel Channel, along with numerous Food Network appearances. He has also been featured in The New Yorker, The New York Times, USA Today, American Way, Smithsonian, and approximately 300 newspapers and magazines across the country. Publishers Weekly has dubbed him “a veteran spice-meister.” Several years later, Dave received his ultimate accolade from no less than The New York Times that declared him to be “The Pope of Peppers.” Dave lives with his wife, Mary Jane Wilan, in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a Doberman, two Cornish Rex cats, his garden, and his greenhouse.

The Field Guide to Peppers

George T. Díaz

George T. Díaz is an assistant professor of history at Sam Houston State University. His award winning book, Border Contraband: A History of Smuggling across the Rio Grande, was published with the University of Texas Press. Recently he served as the Visiting Scholar at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston where he designed and taught a course on smuggling in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Díaz teaches courses in U.S. History, Texas, the North American West, and Mexican American history. His research is informed by investigations in Mexican and U.S. archives as well as a lifetime of living on the border.

Border Contraband: A History of Smuggling across the Rio Grande

Present-day smuggling across the U.S.-Mexico border is a professional, often violent, criminal activity. However, it is only the latest chapter in a history of illicit business dealings that stretches back to 1848, when attempts by Mexico and the United States to tax commerce across the Rio Grande upset local trade and caused popular resentment. Rather than acquiesce to what they regarded as arbitrary trade regulations, borderlanders continued to cross goods and accepted many forms of smuggling as just.

In Border Contraband, George T. Díaz provides the first history of the common, yet little studied, practice of smuggling across the U.S.-Mexico border. In Part I, he examines the period between 1848 and 1910, when the United States’ and Mexico’s trade concerns focused on tariff collection and on borderlanders’ attempts to avoid paying tariffs by smuggling. Part II begins with the onset of the Mexican Revolution in 1910, when national customs and other security forces on the border shifted their emphasis to the interdiction of prohibited items (particularly guns and drugs) that threatened the state. Díaz’s pioneering research explains how greater restrictions have transformed smuggling from a low-level mundane activity, widely accepted and still routinely practiced, into a highly profitable professional criminal enterprise.
Mignette Patrick Dorsey

Mignette Patrick Dorsey, author of Speak Truth to Power, the Story of Charles Patrick, a Civil Rights Pioneer (University of Alabama Press, 2010), is the youngest daughter of Charles Patrick. She is also a widely-published, award-winning former newspaper journalist who has worked as a spokesperson for the City of Houston, a high school journalism educator, and a writer-in-residence for Writers in the Schools. Dorsey is now an Associate Professor of English at Lone Star College, Houston, Texas.

Speak Truth to Power, the Story of Charles Patrick, a Civil Rights Pioneer is the account of how a proud WWII and Korean War veteran, Charles Patrick, tackled corrupt police powers in 1954 Birmingham, Alabama. The incident, in which Patrick was mercilessly assaulted by two white policemen, sparked rare unity among white and black citizens, the press, the clergy, and politicians, all of whom demanded the officers’ terminations. In an unprecedented move, the two policemen were indeed fired, and an F.B.I. investigation resulted in a federal indictment. The book offers a fresh look into the inner workings of civil rights attorneys in the early 1950s, and highlights other unheralded African Americans who preceded Rosa Parks. While the Patrick incident received nationwide publicity at the time and provided an early platform for the Civil Rights Movement that ensued, his historic achievements have been overshadowed by more public activist figures who emerged later. The book was vigorously and meticulously researched over a fifteen-year period by his youngest daughter, Mignette Patrick Dorsey. A 3minute video featuring an interview with Charles Patrick: www.speaktruth2power.com.

Piotr Florczyk

Piotr Florczyk is the author of East & West: Poems (Lost Horse Press, 2016), a collection of essays Los Angeles Sketchbook (Spuyten Duyvil, 2015), and a chapbook Barefoot (Eyewear, 2015).

His new translation of Anna Swir’s seminal poetry of witness volume, Building the Barricade, will appear next year.

Piotr and his wife Dena, who met as competitive swimmers, live in Los Angeles, where he studies in the Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing Program at the University of Southern California.

About East & West

Fiercely inquisitive yet lyrical, East & West spans multiple locales and languages, along the way questioning the chaos of the everyday in order to uncover our deepest secrets and desires. Whether questioning the afterlife of the Berlin Wall, visiting a telephone museum, where “velvet pillows / and sturdy desks conjure hell / for uninitiated guests,” or taking a fresh look at kitchenware “The peeler / loves the grater the way / the heirloom tea cup loves the saucer,” Piotr Florczyk investigates themes of identity, politics, and memory while wrestling with what it is that makes us human.

Please visit his website: www.piotrflorczyk.com

In an important new application of sociological theories, Nadia Y. Flores-Yeffal offers fresh insights into the ways in which social networks function among immigrants who arrive in the United States from Mexico without legal documentation. She identifies “trust” as a major component of networking among those who have little if any legal protection. Flores-Yeffal’s study extends existing social network theories, providing a more detailed description of the social micro- and macrodynamics underlying the development and expansion of social networks used by undocumented Mexicans to migrate and integrate within the United States, with trust relationships as the basis of those networks. In addition, it incorporates a transnational approach in which the migrant’s place of origin, whether rural or urban, becomes an important variable. The concept of Migration-Trust Networks is introduced in which undocumented migrants share solidarity, paisanaje sentiment, religiosity, and social cohesion to create a safety net for themselves, new arrivals and others in need for social support or social capital. At the end of the book, the advantages and disadvantages of Migration-Trust Networks are also addressed followed by social policy recommendations. Migration-Trust Networks encapsulates the new realities of undocumented migration from Latin America and contributes to the academic discourse on international migration, advancing the study of social networks of migration and of social networks in general.

Ruben Flores is associate professor of American Studies at the University of Kansas. He is from El Paso, Texas and received BA and PhD degrees in history at Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught at the University of Kansas since 2006 and has served as the Undergraduate Director for the Department of American Studies and Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He is a member of the American Studies Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the Latin American Studies Association.

In Backroads Pragmatists: Mexico’s Melting Pot and Civil Rights in the United States (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), Ruben Flores offers a new explanation for the origins of the school integration campaigns in the American West. Rather than a strictly domestic process, Flores understands school integration in the region as a policy offshoot of post-revolutionary Mexican nationalism. During the 1920s and 1930s, under the presidency of Álvaro Obregón and the Secretariat of Public Education, the Mexican state aimed to integrate its multi-ethnic citizenry into a united national community through educational policies. Flores reveals that the anthropologists, psychologists, and educational philosophers who reconstructed the public schools of the American West had all studied institutional reform in Mexico, thereby correcting a significant oversight in the existing scholarship on civil rights and U.S.-Mexico cultural relations. Upending the paradigm of U.S. hemispheric hegemony, Flores highlights the ways in which Mexican public policy impacted the civil rights movement in the American West.

Nadia Y. Flores-Yeffal was born in Mexico City and is an immigrant from Mexico, whose status was regularized under the Amnesty of 1986. At the age of 27 and pregnant with her third child she attended Long Beach City College in order to take ESL (English as a Second Language) classes and get her GED (General Education Diploma). She then attended University of California, Irvine where she graduated with Honors. A few years later she received a Master’s degree in Demography and a Doctorate degree in Sociology from University of Pennsylvania. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Texas Tech University. Her research focuses on issues related to undocumented immigration, social networks and the educational trajectories of immigrants from Mexico and El Salvador. She is currently working on her second book about international migration from El Salvador.
Dr. Kate Gale is Managing Editor of Red Hen Press, Editor of the Los Angeles Review, 2004-2006 President of Pen USA and 2006-2014 President of the American Composers Forum, LA. She teaches in the Low Residency MFA program at the University of Nebraska in Poetry, Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction and serves on the boards of A Room of Her Own Foundation and Poetry Society of America.

Her newest books are The Goldilocks Zone from the University of New Mexico Press in January 2014, and Echo Light from Red Mountain Press fall of 2014, winner of the Red Mountain Press Editor’s Choice Award. In November, 2014 she was a featured poet and speaker at the International Poetry Conference in Monteria, Colombia.

“The poems in Kate Gale’s ECHO LIGHT do what poems should do—they give wings to darkness, shadows and bruises. We find ourselves lost in cornfields and then saved in a desert, a city, unsuspected places. Gale crafts poems that are ‘curiously powerful’ and offer us ‘salvation from boredom.’ The stories, the speakers weave myths of intoxication and sensuality, reminding us of ‘words you aren’t saying.’ They roam from earth and snow to sun, stars and sky. ECHO LIGHT ‘has invented the world’ of poetry that we yearn for—a world full of imagination, music and flight.”—Lory Bedikian

Robert H. Frank

Robert H. Frank is the HJ Louis Professor of Economics at Cornell’s Johnson School of Management. He is an “Economic View” columnist for The New York Times and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos. His books, which include Choosing the Right Pond, Passions Within Reason, Principles of Economics (with Ben Bernanke), Luxury Fever, Falling Behind, The Economic Naturalist, and The Darwin Economy, have been translated into 22 languages. The Winner-Take-All Society, co-authored with Philip Cook, received a Critic’s Choice Award, was named a Notable Book of the Year by The New York Times, and was included in Business Week’s list of the ten best books of 1995.

Success and Luck: Good Fortune and the Myth of Meritocracy

How important is luck? No question more reliably divides conservatives from liberals. As conservatives correctly observe, people who amass great fortunes are almost always talented and hardworking. Yet liberals are also correct to note that countless others have those same qualities yet never earn much. In recent years, social scientists have discovered that chance events play a much larger role in important life outcomes than most people once imagined. In Success and Luck, Robert Frank explores the interesting and sometimes unexpected implications of those findings for how best to think about the role of luck in life.

Most of the chance events that shape important life outcomes are of course beyond any individual’s control. But collectively we have considerable say over what is perhaps the biggest stroke of good fortune that anyone can experience—to have been born in an environment that enables talented, hardworking people to succeed. Such environments don’t arise by chance. They require high levels of continuing investment. Frank argues that our failure recognize the external underpinnings of our own success has made us reluctant to support the necessary investment. But the good news is that supportive environments can be maintained without demanding painful sacrifices from anyone.
Kristen Gladden

Kristen Gladden, having taught the width of Texas, the breadth of grade levels, also having been a high school and middle school librarian, is currently a college librarian for the Lonestar college system and program coordinator for a school district outside of Houston.

By far, her greatest accomplishments are her three daughters, Meighgan, Madysson, and Mayson. She thinks she may want to be a writer when she grows up.

Emily Fox Gordon

Emily Fox Gordon is the author of two memoirs, Mockingbird Years, A Life In And Out Of Therapy (Basic Books, 2000,) Are You Happy? A Childhood Remembered (Riverhead, 2006,) a novel, It Will Come To Me (Spiegel and Grau, 2009) and a collection of personal essays, Book Of Days (Spiegel and Grau, 2010). Her work has appeared in the New York Times, American Scholar, Southwest Review, Boulevard, Salmagundi, and many other journals. In 2014, one of her essays was reprinted in Best American Essays. She has been awarded two Pushcart prizes and was the recipient of a 2014 Guggenheim fellowship.

She is a member of the creative writing faculty of the Queens University Low-Residence MFA program, and has taught at Rice, the UHCWP, the University of Wyoming, the New School, and Columbia University. For many years, she has offered personal essay workshops to the Houston community through Houston’s Inprint program.

Book Of Days is a collection of Emily Fox Gordon’s personal essays, with an introduction by Phillip Lopate. It was a New York Times Editor’s Choice and received praise from the Economist, the Boston Globe, and the Dallas Morning News, among other publications. Nick Hornby gave it special mention in his “What I’ve Been Reading” column in “The Believer.”

O Magazine said of it: “These accessible yet sophisticated essays on modern life are so astute, you’ll think the author has been hiding in your closet.”

NO KNOWN BOOK
Maria Grace

Though Maria Grace has been writing fiction since she was ten years old, those early efforts happily reside in a file drawer and are unlikely to see the light of day again, for which many are grateful. After penning five file-drawer novels in high school, she took a break from writing to pursue college and earn her doctorate in Educational Psychology. After 16 years of university teaching, she returned to her first love, fiction writing.

She has one husband, two graduate degrees and two black belts, three sons, four undergraduate majors, six more novels in draft form, waiting for editing, seven published novels, sewn eight Regency era costumes, shared her life with nine cats through the years and tries to run at least ten miles a week.

Maria Grace creates characters with character. She is the author of the Given Good Principles series, Remember the Past, Mistaking Her Character and the non-fiction, A Jane Austen Christmas: Regency Christmas Traditions. A Spot of Sweet Tea short story anthology is set to launch at the end of September 2015. Her next novel, sequel to Mistaking Her Character, is due out early in 2016.

Visit Maria’s blog for free stories, book news, and fascinating snippets about life in the Regency Era.

http://www.randombitsoffascination.com/

David Greven


Bridging landmark territory in film studies, Psycho-Sexual is the first book to apply Alfred Hitchcock’s legacy to three key directors of 1970s Hollywood—Brian De Palma, Martin Scorsese, and William Friedkin—whose work suggests the pornographic male gaze that emerged in Hitchcock’s depiction of the voyeuristic, homoerotically inclined American man. Combining queer theory with a psychoanalytic perspective, David Greven begins with a reconsideration of Psycho and the 1956 remake of The Man Who Knew Too Much to introduce the filmmaker’s evolutionary development of American masculinity. Psycho-Sexual probes De Palma’s early Vietnam War draft-dodger comedies as well as his film Dressed to Kill, along with Scorsese’s Taxi Driver and Friedkin’s Cruising as reactions to and inventive elaborations upon Hitchcock’s gendered themes and aesthetic approaches. Greven demonstrates how the significant political achievement of these films arises from a deeply disturbing, violent, even sorrowful psychological and social context. Engaging with contemporary theories of pornography while establishing pornography’s emergence during the classical Hollywood era, Greven argues that New Hollywood filmmakers seized upon Hitchcock’s radical decentering of heterosexual male dominance. The resulting images of heterosexual male ambivalence allowed for an investment in same-sex desire; an aura of homophobia became informed by a fascination with the homoerotic. Psycho-Sexual also explores the broader gender crisis and disorganization that permeated the Cold War and New Hollywood eras, reimagining the defining premises of Hitchcock criticism.
David Grubbs
David Grubbs, PhD., is an Assistant Professor of English at Houston Baptist University. His field of specialty is English literature of the Middle Ages, particularly of the Anglo-Saxon period. Dr. Grubbs is a regular host and panelist on the Christian Humanist Podcast, as well as a regular interviewer on the Christian Humanist Profiles podcast (available on iTunes U).

New York Times bestselling author Rachel Harris writes humorous love stories about sassy girls-next-door and the hot guys that make them swoon. Emotion, vibrant settings, and strong relationships are a staple in each of her books...and kissing. Lots of kissing. An admitted Diet Mountain Dew addict and homeschool mom, she gets through each day by laughing at herself, hugging her kids, and watching way too much Food Network with her husband. She writes young adult, new adult, and adult romances, and LOVES talking with readers!

The Natural History of Us
One class assignment. One second chance at love. The school player is all in. Now he needs to win back the sweet commitment girl who’s forever owned his heart.

Justin Carter has a secret. He’s not the total player Fairfield Academy believes him to be. Not really. In fact, he used to be a one-woman guy...and his feelings for her never went away. Too bad he broke her heart three years ago and made sure to ruin any chance she’d ever forgive him.

Peyton Williams is a liar. She pretends to be whole, counting down the days until graduation and helping her parents at the family ranch. But the truth is, she’s done everything she can to get over Justin, and salvation is just around the corner. With graduation one short month away, she’ll soon break free from the painful memories and start her life fresh. Of course, she has to get through working with him on one last assignment first.

For Justin, nothing ever felt as right as being with Peyton, and now that fate’s given him a shot at redemption, he’s determined to make the most of it. And for Peyton...well, Justin Carter has always been her kryptonite.
Felipe Hinojosa

Born and raised in Brownsville, Texas, Felipe Hinojosa is Associate Professor of History at Texas A&M University. He received his PhD in History from the University of Houston in 2009 and his teaching and research interests include Latina/o and Chicana/o Studies, American Religion, Social Movements, Gender, and Comparative Race and Ethnicity. He has published articles on Latino Religion, the Chicano movement, and the War on Poverty in the Western Historical Quarterly and Mennonite Quarterly Review. Hinojosa’s first book, Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture, was published in 2014 by Johns Hopkins University Press. The book was awarded the 2015 Américo Paredes Book Award for the best book in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies given every year by the Center for Mexican American Studies at South Texas College.

Felipe Hinojosa’s parents first encountered Mennonite families as migrant workers in the tomato fields of northwestern Ohio. What started as mutual admiration quickly evolved into a relationship that strengthened over the years and eventually led to his parents founding a Mennonite Church in South Texas. Throughout his upbringing as a Mexican American evangélico, Hinojosa was faced with questions not only about his own religion but also about broader issues of Latino evangelicalism, identity, and civil rights politics. Latino Mennonites offers the first historical analysis of the changing relationship between religion and ethnicity among Latino Mennonites. Drawing heavily on primary sources in Spanish, such as newspapers and oral history interviews, Hinojosa traces the rise of the Latino presence within the Mennonite Church from the origins of Mennonite missions in Latino communities in Chicago, South Texas, Puerto Rico, and New York City, to the conflicted relationship between the Mennonite Church and the California farmworker movements, and finally to the rise of Latino evangelical politics. He also analyzes how the politics of the Chicano, Puerto Rican, and black freedom struggles of the 1960s and 1970s civil rights movements captured the imagination of Mennonite leaders who belonged to a church known more for rural and peaceful agrarian life than for social protest.

Whether in terms of religious faith and identity, race, immigrant rights, or sexuality, the politics of belonging has historically presented both challenges and possibilities for Latino evangelicals in the religious landscapes of twentieth-century America. In Latino Mennonites, Hinojosa has interwoven church history with social history to explore dimensions of identity in Latino Mennonite communities and to create a new way of thinking about the history of American evangelicalism.

Cliff Hudder

Cliff Hudder teaches at Lone Star College-Montgomery. His stories have appeared in The Kenyon Review, The Missouri Review, and other journals. His novella, Splinterville, won the 2007 Texas Review Fiction Award, and his novel, Pretty Enough for You, was published by Texas Review Press in July of 2015.

Synopsis of Pretty Enough for You

N’er-do-well immigration attorney Harrison Bent is attempting to juggle an angry wife, an inscrutable stalker, an obsessed girlfriend, and an unsolved murder, all while trying to forge a successful outcome to a case that might revive his career and help pay for his autistic son’s special school. And his day has just started.

Author webpage: http://www.cliffhudder.com/
Robert Jacobus

Robert Jacobus received his BA (89) and his MA (94) in History from the University of Houston. He recently retired from teaching history and coaching volleyball, basketball, and tennis in Texas public schools, his last 10 years were spent teaching dual credit US History through Wharton County Junior College at Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. The dual credit US History program at Foster High School was the largest in the State of Texas, serving about 140-150 students annually. He currently teaches history at Lone Star College/ Cypress Center in Katy, Texas. He resides in Sugar Land, Texas.

On January 20th, 1968, the University of Houston Cougar basketball team upset the UCLA Bruins, ending a 47 game winning streak. Billed as the “Game of the Century,” the defeat of the UCLA hoopsters was witnessed by 52,693 fans and a national television audience – the first-ever regular-season basketball game broadcast nationally.

But the game would never have happened if Houston coach Guy Lewis had not recruited two young black men from Louisiana in 1964: Don Chaney and Elvin Hayes. Despite facing some resistance in Houston and also on the road in East Texas junior college gyms their freshman season, by their senior campaign of 1967-68 Chaney and Hayes led the Cougars to a 32 game winning streak and to the second of two visits to the Final Four.

Similarly, in Cougar football coach Bill Yeoman integrated his program in 1964 with the nation’s top recruit, running back Warren McVea of San Antonio. Throughout his Cougar career, McVea, and later his other black teammates, integrated college football venues throughout the South.

Houston Cougars in the 1960s: Death Threats, the Veer Offense, and the Game of the Century, features the first-person accounts of the players, the coaches and others involved in the integration of intercollegiate athletics not just in Houston, but also in the South as a whole. Houston Cougars in the 1960s tells the gripping story of the courageous players, visionary coaches, and the committed supporters who blazed a trail not only for athletic success but also racial equality in 1960s America.

www.houstoncougars1960s.com

C.C. Hunter

C. C. Hunter has enchanted readers with her two paranormal series, Shadow Falls and Shadow Falls: After Dark. Hunter’s e-original novellas from these series are now available for the first time in print in ALMOST MIDNIGHT: The Novella Collection

Featuring four previously released e-novellas and one never-before-seen story, this collection follows a vampire and a werewolf who never fit in, a witch whose spells don’t always work as planned, a mysterious new guy who’s hiding something and shows how together they will discover who they’re meant to be.

Hidden from the human world, Shadow Falls is a secret camp for teens with supernatural powers. But for four very different teens, it’s much more than just a camp—it’s where their destinies will unfold.

Independent and strong-willed Della Tsang didn’t believe in vampires...until she became one. Chase Tallman is the newest member of Shadow Falls, but what made him into the sexy, mysterious vampire he is today? And what led him to Della Tsang? For Miranda Kane, magic has always been something she’s struggled with—until she finally has a chance to prove herself a witch to be reckoned with. And for Fredericka Lakota, the one guy who challenges her the most will lead her to the life she’s always wanted.

Author Website: http://www.cchunterbooks.com/
Robert Jensen

Robert Jensen is a professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and board member of the Third Coast Activist Resource Center in Austin. He is the author of Plain Radical: Living, Loving, and Learning to Leave the Planet Gracefully (Counterpoint/Soft Skull, 2015).

Jensen’s other books include Arguing for Our Lives: A User’s Guide to Constructive Dialogue (City Lights, 2013); All My Bones Shake: Seeking a Progressive Path to the Prophetic Voice, (Soft Skull Press, 2009); Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity (South End Press, 2007); The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism and White Privilege (City Lights, 2005); Citizens of the Empire: The Struggle to Claim Our Humanity (City Lights, 2004); and Writing Dissent: Taking Radical Ideas from the Margins to the Mainstream (Peter Lang, 2002).

Jensen is also co-producer of the documentary film “Abe Osheroff: One Foot in the Grave, the Other Still Dancing” (Media Education Foundation, 2009), which chronicles the life and philosophy of the longtime radical activist.

An extended interview Jensen conducted with Osheroff is online at http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rjensen/free-lance/abeosheroffinterview.htm.

Jensen can be reached at rjensen@austin.utexas.edu and his articles can be found online at: http://robertwjensen.org/.

Gretchen Johnson


The Joy of Deception

From North Dakota to Texas, from the painful pleasure of falling in love to the stinging pain of disappointment, from moments of pure victory to the bitterness of failure, this book encapsulates the many facets of the human experience.

“Gretchen Johnson understands small towns are big stages. In The Joy of Deception she shows us in well-crafted short stories the odd, the bored, and the trapped. As one of her characters says about a mop that absorbs all the water in a swimming pool, they ‘wish for that kind of magic’ in their lives, and they wait for another life to begin, hoping renewal stands in the wings. Their moments of truth, great beauty and disappointment seep from the pages.”

Jennifer Ravey, the PickyGirl.com

“What great fun! In these rollicking stories, Gretchen Johnson’s young protagonists try to clout their way to sanity and normality. But like their defenses, their humanity is wide open, so they never seem to see the punch ready to deck them.”

Jerry Bradley, author of The Importance of Elsewhere.
Melvin Konner


He has been a fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Foundations’ Fund for Research in Psychiatry, and he received the American Anthropological Association’s Anthropology in Media Award for 2004. His distinguished lectures include the 15th Annual Raymond F. Pruitt Lecture, The Mayo Clinic and Mayo Medical School (1995), the McGovern Lecture in Medical Humanities, Yale University School of Medicine (1999), and the Abraham Flexner Lecture at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine (2009). He was named “Best Local Intellectual” in Creative Loafing’s annual “Best of Atlanta” edition for 2004.

He holds Ph.D. and M.D. degrees from Harvard University, and is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology at Emory University. He spent two years among the !Kung San (Bushmen), and has taught at Harvard and then at Emory, for over 40 years. He teaches courses on human biology, human brain/behavior relations, biological approaches to childhood, human nature, medicine and society, and the anthropology of the Jews.

He was married to Marjorie Shostak (May 11, 1945-October 6, 1996), author of the anthropological classic Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman and a Design for Living (Harper and Row, 1986; the first book about the “Paleo” diet); Why the Reckless Survive, And Other Secrets of Human Nature (Viking, 1990); Childhood, the book for a major nine-hour public television series on which he appeared (Little, Brown, 1991); Medicine at the Crossroads: The Crisis in Health Care (Pantheon, 1992, for a seven-hour WNET/BBC series: Dear America: A Concerned Doctor Wants You to Know the Truth About Health Reform (Addison-Wesley, 1987; advocating a single-payer system); Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews (Viking Penguin 2003); The Jewish Body, in the Nextbook/Scholastic “Jewish Encounters” book series (2009); Childhood Evolving: Relationships, Emotion, and Mind (Harvard University Press, 2010); and most recently Women After All: Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy (Norton, 2019).

He is the author of books and articles and has made many presentations on history, Texana, and archives. He is most noted for authoring Mexican American Odyssey: Felix Tijerina, Entrepreneur and Civic Leader, 1905-1965 (Texas A&M University Press, 2001) and Del Pueblo: A History of Houston’s Hispanic Community (Texas A&M University Press, 2012). Both of these books deal with the Hispanic experience in the Bayou City and resulted from his work at HMRC.

Krenneck is a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and a longtime member of both the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Texas State Historical Association. Among his many honors, in 2006 he was selected as a TSHA Fellow. He was chosen three times as a Featured Author at the Texas Book Festival. In February, 2015, he received the Premio Estrella de Aztlan from the Texas Foco of the National Association for Chicana and Chicana Studies, a lifetime achievement award for fostering the well being of the Mexican American community in areas from cultural arts to social justice.

He remains active in history, archival, and library matters from his home in Karnes County. Dr. Krenneck is currently working on a full length biography of John J. Herrera, Houston civil rights attorney and activist. His work on Herrera first appeared as a chapter entitled “Mr. LULAC: The Fabulous Life of John J. Herrera” in Leaders of the Mexican American Generation: Biographical Essays, edited by Anthony Quiroz (University Press of Colorado, 2015).
Jon Land

Jon Land is the USA Today bestselling author of thirty-eight novels, including the critically-acclaimed series featuring female Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong: Strong Enough to Die, Strong Justice, Strong at the Break, Strong Vengeance, Strong Rain Falling, which won the 2013 USA Best Book Award and the 2014 International Book Award in the Mystery/Suspense category, and Strong Darkness, winner of the 2014 USA Best Book Award and the 2015 International Book Award for Thrillers. Land is also the coauthor of the nonfiction bestseller, Betrayal, which was named a Best True Crime Book of 2012 by Suspense Magazine. Jon Land is a graduate of Brown University, lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and can be found at www.jonlandbooks.com or on Twitter@JonDLand.

STRONG LIGHT OF DAY (latest book in the Caitlin Strong series)

Caitlin Strong is a fifth generation Texas Ranger as quick with her wits as she is with her gun. Over the years she’s taken on all manner of criminals and miscreants, thwarting the plans of villains to do vast damage to the country and state she loves. But none of that has prepared Caitlin for an investigation that pits her against ruthless billionaire oilman Calum Dane, whose genetically engineered pesticide may have poisoned a large swath of the state. How that poisoning is connected to the disappearance of thirty high school students from a Houston prep school, including the son of her outlaw lover Cort Wesley Masters, presents Caitlin with the greatest and most desperate challenge of her career. As if that wasn’t enough, she also has to deal with a crazed rancher whose entire herd of cattle has been picked clean to the bone by something science can’t explain.

The common denominator between these apparently disparate events is a new and deadly enemy capable of destroying the US economy and killing millions, a foe it will take far more than bullets to bring down. There’s yet another player in the deadly game Caitlin finds herself playing: Russian extremists prepared to seize an opportunity to win a war they never stopped fighting.

Caitlin’s race to save the United States weaves through the present and the past, confronting her and Cort Wesley with the most powerful and dangerous enemies they’ve ever faced, human and otherwise. The Cold War hasn’t just heated up; it’s boiling over under the spill of a strong light only Caitlin can extinguish before it’s too late.

Rich Levy

Rich Levy is a poet and, since 1995, executive director of Inprint (inprinthouston.org), a literary arts nonprofit in Houston, Texas. He earned his MFA at the Iowa Writers Workshop; his poems, essays, and reviews have appeared (or will soon appear) in various publications, including Boulevard, Callaloo, The Florida Review, The Hopkins Review, Houston Chronicle, Pool, The Texas Observer, and others.

His poetry collection Why Me? was published in 2009, and in 2011 Houston Press named him Houston’s “best poet.” He is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, and his community service includes the advisory board of Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art, the editorial committee of CITE magazine, and the film committee of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. He is a jazz obsessive and has raised three children and several cats and dogs.

WHY ME? by Rich Levy

This debut collection reveals an original and often humorous voice, that of husband, father, artist and executive: the voice of the aging modern man confronting the often absurd and hilarious dichotomies in our society.
Patsy Pittman Light

A resident of San Antonio, ranch owner, and fifth generation Texan, Light has a passionate interest in historic preservation and was recognized as “A Texas Hero of Preservation” by The San Antonio Conservation Society. She is the former chairman of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Commission, a founding member of Los Compadres (support group for the National Park), a Certified Professional Tour Guide, a member of Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Goliad County Historical Commission, and the San Antonio Conservation Society. During the last fifteen years, she has written nominations for 18 sites to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places (one for 27,000 acres in Goliad County) as well as eleven nominations for Texas State Historical Commission subject markers. Light earned a BA in Art and Comparative World Literature from SMU and an MA in Art from Goddard College. She spent years as an art consultant and educator, teaching all levels from preschool to college, writing and instructing an elementary art class series for KLKN TV, a staff member with Unlimited Potential (a program of the U.S. Department of Education), an instructor for University of Texas Elderhostel, and conducting classes at the Southwest School of Art and Craft. As a studio artist, she received awards for her work in watercolor and batik, and fabric resist.

Her interests in art and history influenced the writing of Light’s book, Capturing Nature: The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez. After collaborating on a project to list 15 of Rodriguez’s works on the National Register (research which spanned the period of ten years), she realized that his life story and his unusual talent should be recorded. The book chronicling the life of the Mexican artisan is the first written in the U.S. about the genre: faux bois (French for false wood) or trabajo rustico (Spanish for rustic work). Capturing Nature received three awards: “the Ron Tyler Award for the Best Illustrated Book on Texas History and Culture” from TSHA, the Texas Society of Architects/AIA “Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Architecture in the Media,” and the “San Antonio Conservation Society Publication Award.” Her second book, Heroine of the Texas Revolution: Francisca Alvarez, The Angel of Goliad was written to benefit the Presidio La Bahia Foundation. Martha Stewart featured Light and her book on her Martha Stewart Living television program. Light was co-curator for Trabajo Rústico: Fantasies in Cement, an exhibit at the Southwest School of Art and Craft in 2010. She is a contributing author for Buildings of Texas; Central, South and Gulf Coast and The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Volume 23: Folk Art.

Capturing Nature
The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez

Ann McCutchan

Ann McCutchan’s writing springs from deep interests in music, art, nature, and creativity, and the ways they shape individuals, places, and history. Her early books include a biography of French flute virtuoso Marcel Moyse and a collection of interviews with composers about the creative process -- both important contributions to the literature of music and creativity.


The founding director of the University of Wyoming’s MFA creative writing program, McCutchan taught creative writing for ten years at the University of North Texas, where she served as Editor of UNT’s American Literary Review and received the Kesterson Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching.

Circular breathing is a technique for wind instrument playing in which fresh air is drawn in through the nose at the same time that stored air in the lungs is released by mouth through the instrument. The process allows the player to produce a continuous line of music without breaking the curve of a melody to inhale. In this collection of personal essays, clarinetist Ann McCutchan uses the metaphor of circular breathing to animate her understanding of her own life as a woman, musician, and writer.

The questions McCutchan grapples with have universal implications. For example, how does one come to be called to a life’s work? For McCutchan, who grew up in central Florida in the 1960s, the call grew out of twin desires: to exercise a physical voice and to develop an interior one. Bringing both to fruition meant abandoning roles expected of young women in that time and place, and learning to live ever after with the conflicting claims of art and life. Questions of familial loss lie at the heart of this collection, as well. With a sure, delicate hand, McCutchan examines the impact of her parents’ untimely deaths, her inability to bear children, and the founding of her marriage. Art may not deliver one from sorrow, she discovers, but it may console -- deeply. Finally, there are the questions that arise when one can no longer fulfill the physical demands of an art. Can a musician trade in her instrument, and a world that defined her for decades, for something else? Here, McCutchan charts her journey from the stage to the page, exploring the ways both worlds feed each other.

Circular Breathing: Meditations From a Musical Life
Dennis McNally

Dennis McNally was born in 1949 at Ft. Meade, Maryland, the son of a U.S. Army counter-intelligence operative and a legal secretary. He attended 21 schools across many states and two countries, eventually graduating from high school in Maine and undergraduate school at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1977 for a biography of Jack Kerouac which was published by Random House in 1979 under the title Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, the Beat Generation, and America.

He settled in San Francisco, and after a period of free-lance journalism and odd jobs, he became the first archivist for Bill Graham Presents in 1983. Having been selected as the Grateful Dead’s authorized biographer in 1980, he became the band’s publicist in 1984, and continued in those duties for Grateful Dead Productions until its dissolution in 2004. From 1984 to 1995, he toured with the band, in the process working on its behalf at the United Nations, the White House, and Congress.


Since the closure of Grateful Dead Productions, he has worked as a free-lance music publicist with clients that have included Bob Weir & RatDog, the Jerry Garcia Estate LLC, David Lindley, Little Feat, the Subdudes, and a wide variety of other music business clients, including the Sonoma Jazz + Festival, Rhino Records (for whose “Golden Road” package he received a Grammy nomination for liner notes), and many others.


He is married to Susana Millman, a photographer.

Matthew Minson

Matthew Minson, MD is an author, inventor, cartoonist and clinician and holds appointments and assignments as the Senior Advisor for Health Affairs for the Texas Engineering Extension Service, and at Texas A&M University. An acknowledged expert on austere care and disaster medicine, he additionally has served as the Medical Director for Texas Task Force One, FEMA-USAR at Texas A&M University and he is an editor for Health and Science at the Texas A&M University Press and the Texas Press Consortium.

He has been a member of the Chancellor’s Council at the University of Texas and is a principal member of the National Fire Protection Association’s Technical Committees 472, 473 and 475 establishing Competencies and Standards for Responders in Hazardous Materials and WMD Environments. He has also served as a member of the National Sheriff’s Association Committee for Homeland Security.

He is also the Medical Director for Superior Energy Services and oversees all elements of the International Health and Medical endeavors for a multinational corporation providing the majority of the global market for upstream energy sector disaster response, engineering, and firefighting.

Previously he was Senior Medical Officer for Strategic Initiatives at USDHHS’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response where he served in leading the creation of the National Health Security Strategy as well functioning as a liaison to the WH IPC for First Responder Protection, Biodefense, and Chemdefense. He was the liaison to the United States Agency for International Development and RMT deputy coordinator for the health and medical humanitarian response to Haiti.

He served as the Director of Office Preparedness and Response at the State of Maryland’s, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where he had responsibility for all aspects of Emergency Support Function # 8, Health and Medical for the State of Maryland. This included State Strategic National Stockpile, Emergency Management (8), PHEP Cooperative Agreement Enterprises including the Cities Readiness Initiative and Pandemic Preparedness. While there he oversaw the ESF # 8 activities for Repatriation of American Citizens from Lebanon Conflict, 2006 and more.

Before that he was the Director of the Office of Emergency Management and Medical Review at the Harris County (Texas) Department of Public Health and Environmental Services. Dr. Minson has enjoyed a broad deployment history with notable entries of the World Trade Center Attacks, numerous hurricanes including Katrina and Rita, The Columbia Shuttle Recovery, The response to the earthquake in Haiti, the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Response and the West, Texas explosion.

Dr. Minson received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch and completed his residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Texas Medical School, Houston. He resides in the Houston area with his wife Kelli.
Steven Moss is Associate Professor of English at Texas State Technical College and a Fellow of the Kellogg Institute. His master's thesis, “NASA and Racial Equality in the South, 1961–1968” (Texas Tech University, 1997), was one of the first academic works on the topic. The Space Age began just as the struggle for civil rights forced Americans to confront the long and bitter legacy of slavery, discrimination, and violence against African Americans. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson utilized the space program as an agent for social change, using federal equal employment opportunity laws to open workplaces at NASA and NASA contractors to African Americans while creating thousands of research and technology jobs in the Deep South to ameliorate poverty. We Could Not Fail tells the inspiring, largely unknown story of how shooting for the stars helped to overcome segregation on earth.

Richard Paul and Steven Moss profile ten pioneer African American space workers whose stories illustrate the role NASA and the space program played in promoting civil rights. They recount how these technicians, mathematicians, engineers, and an astronaut candidate surmounted barriers to move, in some cases literally, from the cotton fields to the launching pad. The authors vividly describe what it was like to be the sole African American in a NASA work group and how these brave and determined men also helped to transform Southern society by integrating colleges, patenting new inventions, holding elective office, and reviving and governing defunct towns.

Adding new names to the roster of civil rights heroes and a new chapter to the story of space exploration, We Could Not Fail demonstrates how African Americans broke the color barrier by competing successfully at the highest level of American intellectual and technological achievement.

https://www.facebook.com/We-Could-Not-Fail-666904186699012/

Kim O’Brien grew up in an old Victorian house in Bronxville, NY. Her mother loved telling her bedtime stories, especially ones about the ghost in their attic. Kim not only believed the house was haunted but also fell in love with books and the art of storytelling.

At Emory University in Atlanta, Kim earned a B.A. in psychology. She then attained a M.F.A in writing from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY. She worked for many years as a writer, editor, and speechwriter for IBM before becoming a full-time fiction writer.

Kim O’Brien is the author of seven romances and a series of non-fiction picture books for children. Her first teen mystery, Bone Deep, released from Spencer Hill Press this past May. She has worked for IBM as an editor and speechwriter, and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She currently teaches English at Lone Star College-Montgomery and is hard at work on her next novel.

**Bone Deep**

A teen discovers romance and danger as she strives to solve the mysterious disappearance of her best friend who vanishes during an archeological restoration project.

When Paige Patterson travels to Arizona to spend the summer with her archeologist father, she expects answers. Why did her parents divorce? Why did her father choose his career over family? She doesn’t expect to be reunited with her best friend Emily Linton, or to find herself falling for the project manager’s son, Jalen Yazzi.
David M. Parsons

2011 Texas State Poet Laureate David M. Parsons is a recipient of many honors including an NEH Dante Fellowship and the Baskerville Publisher’s Prize.

A Marine Corps Recon-Scout Boat Team Leader, he received his MA from the University of Houston’s Creative Writing Program and currently teaches Creative Writing and Racquetball at Lone Star College - Montgomery. He was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters in 2009.

Reaching for Longer Water

Award winning poetry critic Ange Mlinko wrote of Parsons and his work, “The Renaissance man was once a courtly ideal; Parsons shows that it is a democratic ideal too—warm-blooded, muscular, as companionable on the page as in the flesh.” Both tangible and cerebral, Parsons’ poetry lifts its readers into a new, transformational reality with a depth of insight that is truly exceptional. Reaching For Longer Water brings the reader, the most compelling of his poems from his previous four collections, poems hailed by poetry luminaries, Edward Hirsch, Stanley Plumly, Robert Phillips, and Paul Mariani.

http://www.daveparsonspoetry.com/

David Phillips

David Phillips is Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Houston.

David Phillips specialize in ethics; his research interests are primarily in the history of ethics and metaethics. His book Sidgwickian Ethics was published by Oxford University Press in 2011.

Henry Sidgwick’s The Methods of Ethics is one of the most important books in the history of moral philosophy. But it has not hitherto received the kind of sustained scholarly attention its stature merits. David Phillips aims in Sidgwickian Ethics to do something that has (surprisingly) not been done before: to interpret and evaluate the central argument of the Methods, in a way that brings out the important conceptual and historical connections between Sidgwick’s views and contemporary moral philosophy.

Sidgwick distinguished three basic methods: utilitarianism, egoism, and dogmatic intuitionism. And he focused on two conflicts: between utilitarianism and dogmatic intuitionism and between utilitarianism and egoism. Sidgwick believed he could largely resolve the conflict between utilitarianism and dogmatic intuitionism, but could not resolve the conflict between utilitarianism and egoism. Phillips suggests that the best way to approach Sidgwick’s ideas is to start with his views on these two conflicts, and with the metaethical and epistemological ideas on which they depend. Phillips interprets and largely defends Sidgwick’s non-naturalist metaethics and moderate intuitionist moral epistemology. But he argues for a verdict on the two conflicts different from Sidgwick’s own. Phillips claims that Sidgwick is less successful than he thinks in resolving the conflict between utilitarianism and dogmatic intuitionism, and that Sidgwick’s treatment of the conflict between utilitarianism and egoism is more successful than he thinks in that it provides the model for a plausible view of practical reason.

Phillips’s book will be of interest to two different groups of readers: to students seeking a brief introduction to Sidgwick’s most important ideas and a guidebook to the Methods, and to scholars in ethics and the history of ideas concerned with Sidgwick’s seminal contribution to moral philosophy.
Abigail Reynolds may be a nationally bestselling author and a physician, but she can’t follow a straight line with a ruler. Originally from upstate New York, she studied Russian and theater at Bryn Mawr College and marine biology at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. After a stint in performing arts administration, she decided to attend medical school, and took up writing as a hobby during her years as a physician in private practice.

A life-long lover of Jane Austen’s novels, Abigail began writing variations on Pride & Prejudice in 2001, then expanded her repertoire to include a series of novels set on her beloved Cape Cod. Her most recent releases are Alone with Mr. Darcy, the national bestseller Mr. Darcy’s Noble Connections, The Darcys of Derbyshire, and Mr. Darcy’s Refuge. She is currently working on a new Pemberley Variation and the next novel in her Cape Cod series. Her books have been translated into five languages. A lifetime member of JASNA, she lives on Cape Cod with her husband, her son and a menagerie of animals. Her hobbies do not include sleeping or cleaning her house.

Alone with Mr. Darcy

Elizabeth Bennet can’t imagine anything worse than being stranded by a blizzard in a tiny cottage with proud and unpleasant Mr. Darcy. But being trapped there for days – and nights - with an injured and confused Mr. Darcy who keeps saying the oddest things about her is even worse. At least he possesses the useful ability of lighting a fire to keep them from freezing to death. But when he puts his arms around her, she discovers the hearth isn’t the only place he knows how to build a fire. And the little half-frozen kitten he finds in a woodpile isn’t proving to be much of a chaperone.

She doesn’t really believe his promises to marry her if anyone finds out they spent two nights alone together, especially after learning he was betrayed by another woman in the past. When her worst fears are realized and her reputation is in tatters, she isn’t surprised to discover Mr. Darcy has vanished into thin air, leaving her no choice but to find a husband as soon as possible before her whole family is ruined. Any husband will have to do, no matter how much she dislikes him. Even if she can’t stop thinking of Mr. Darcy....

Christina Sandefur serves as the Goldwater Institute’s Vice President for Policy. She also litigates cases advancing economic liberty, private property, free speech, and taxpayer rights.

Sandefur is regularly cited as an expert in national media, and she is a frequent guest on national television and radio programs, including Fox Business’s Stossel, Dick Morris, and The Armstrong & Getty Show. Her litigation and policy work has been featured in National Review, The Washington Post, Human Events, The American Spectator, and The Weekly Standard, among others, and her own commentary has appeared in The Daily Caller, Regulation Magazine, and many other publications. Sandefur has provided expert legal testimony to various legislative committees and is a frequent speaker at conferences. She graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University College of Law, where she served as Notes Editor on the Michigan State Law Review, and graduated magna cum laude from Hillsdale College.

Cornerstone of Liberty: Property Rights in 21st Century America
Timothy Sandefur

Timothy Sandefur is a Principal Attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation. As the lead attorney in the Foundation’s Economic Liberty Project, he works to protect businesses against abusive government regulation, and has won important victories for free enterprise in California, Oregon, Missouri, and other states.

Publications / Achievements

Education
Sandefur is a graduate of Chapman University School of Law and Hillsdale College.

Jim Sanderson

Jim Sanderson has published three collections of short stories: Semi-Private Rooms (1994), which won the 1992 Kenneth Patton Prize; Faded Love (Ink Brush Press, 2010), which was nominated for Texas Institute of Letters’ 2010 Jesse Jones award for best book written about Texas or by a Texan, and Trashy Behavior (Lamar University Press, 2013).

He has published seven novels: El Camino del Rio (University of New Mexico Press, 1998), which won the 1997 Frank Waters award; Safe Delivery (University of New Mexico Press, 2000), which was a finalist for the 2000 Violet Crown Award (best book by a Texas author); La Mordida (University of New Mexico Press, 2002); Nevin’s History: A Novel of Texas (Texas Tech University Press, 2004); Dolph’s Team (Ink Brush Press, 2011); Nothing Left to Lose (TCU Press, 2014) and Hill Country Property (Livingston Press, 2015).

He has also published an essay collection: A West Texas Soapbox (1998). His short story, “Bankers” won the Texas Institute of Letters’ Kay Cattarulla Award for the best short story of 2012 about Texas or by a Texas Writer. He has also published about 80 short stories, essays, and articles.

He is presently serving as the chair of the English and Modern Language Department for Lamar University.

http://sites.google.com/site/jim2sanderson/home
George Sher

George Sher is Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Philosophy at Rice University, where he has taught since 1991. He holds a B.A. from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. from Columbia. Before coming to Rice, he taught at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and at the University of Vermont, in Burlington, Vt.

His areas of specialization are ethics, social and political philosophy, and moral psychology. He has written on subjects that include, among others, moral knowledge, moral compromise, distributive justice, compensatory justice, punishment, desert, responsibility, blame, and the reasons for which governments may legitimately act.

His essays have appeared in numerous journals including Mind, The Journal of Philosophy, Nous, Ethics, and Philosophy and Public Affairs. He has also edited a number of anthologies, and is the author of six books:

- Desert (Princeton, 1987)
- Beyond Neutrality: Perfectionism and Politics (Cambridge, 1997)
- In Praise of Blame (Oxford, 2006)

http://philosophy.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=71
http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/philosophy/political-philosophy/equality-inalgalitarians

Peggy Shumaker

Peggy Shumaker is the Rasmuson Foundation’s Distinguished Artist for 2014. She is also the Artsmith Artist of the Year for 2014. She is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently Toucan Nest, Poems of Costa Rica. Her lyrical memoir is Just Breathe Normally.

Professor emerita from University of Alaska Fairbanks, Shumaker teaches in the Rainier Writing Workshop. She is founding editor of Boreal Books, publisher of fine art and literature from Alaska. She edits the Alaska Literary Series at University of Alaska Press. Peggy Shumaker was Alaska State Writer Laureate for 2010-2012.

Born in La Mesa, California, Peggy Shumaker grew up in Tucson, Arizona. She earned her B.A. in English and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona. Shumaker was writer in residence for the Arizona Commission on the Arts, working with prison inmates, honors students, gang members, deaf adults, teen parents, little kids, library patrons, and elderly folks. She has given readings in art galleries, a governor’s mansion, a clearing in the woods, an abandoned bank, on reservations, in libraries, at a gold dredge, under the hoodoos at Bryce Canyon, on a riverboat, and at many bookstores, community centers, and universities.

Peggy’s poems have been published in Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, England, and throughout the United States. Her nonfiction has appeared in Short Takes: Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction (Norton), A Road of Her Own (Fulcrum), Under Northern Lights (U. Washington Press), A Year in Place (U. Utah Press), Prairie Schooner, Brevity, and Ascent.

In 2008, Peggy founded Boreal Books, an imprint of Red Hen Press, to publish literature and fine art from Alaska. As part of her service as Alaska State Writer Laureate, Peggy is editing the Alaska Literary Series. The first three titles were published in spring 2012. Three more titles have been released in 2013.

Shumaker was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. She has served as poet-in-residence at the Stadler Center for Poetry at Bucknell and as the president of the board of directors of AWP. Professor emerita from University of Alaska Fairbanks, Shumaker teaches in the low-residency MFA Rainier Writing Workshop and at many writing conferences and festivals.
Dominic Smith grew up in Australia and now lives in Austin, Texas. He is the author of four novels, most recently of The Last Painting of Sara de Vos. His previous novels are Bright and Distant Shores, The Beautiful Miscellaneous, and The Mercury Visions of Louis Daguerre. His short fiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and appeared widely, including in The Atlantic, Texas Monthly, and the Chicago Tribune. His awards include the Dobie Paisano Fellowship from the Texas Institute of Letters and a New Works Grant from the Australia Council for the Arts. He teaches writing in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers. More information can be found on his website: www.dominicsmith.net

THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS
In 1631, Sara de Vos becomes the first woman to be admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke in Holland. Three hundred years later, At the Edge of a Wood, her haunting winter scene of a girl watching skaters at dusk, is her only surviving work. It hangs in the bedroom of a Park Avenue coop of a wealthy Manhattanite, a descendant of the original owner. Meanwhile, in the grungier reaches of Brooklyn, an Australian art history grad student struggling to stay afloat in New York agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape for a dubious art dealer. Half a century later, she's a prominent curator back home in Sydney, mounting an exhibition of female Dutch painters of the Golden Age. Both versions of At the Edge of a Wood by Sara de Vos are en route to her museum, threatening to unravel her life and reputation.

Phillip Luke Sinitiere

Joel Osteen, the smiling preacher, has quickly emerged as one of the most recognizable Protestant leaders in the country. His megachurch, the Houston based Lakewood Church, hosts an average of over 40,000 worshipers each week. Osteen is the best-selling author of numerous books, and his sermons and inspirational talks appear regularly on mainstream cable and satellite radio.

How did Joel Osteen become Joel Osteen? How did Lakewood become the largest megachurch in the U. S.?

Salvation with a Smile, the first book devoted to Lakewood Church and Joel Osteen, offers a critical history of the congregation by linking its origins to post-World War II neopentecostalism, and connecting it to the exceptionally popular prosperity gospel movement and the enduring attraction of televangelism. In this richly documented book, historian Phillip Luke Sinitiere carefully excavates the life and times of Lakewood’s founder, John Osteen, to explain how his son Joel expanded his legacy and fashioned the congregation into America’s largest megachurch. Salvation with a Smile situates Lakewood Church in the context of American religious history and illuminates how Osteen has parlayed an understanding of American religious and political culture into vast popularity and success.
Greg Leitich Smith

Award-winning author Greg Leitich Smith lives in Austin, Texas, with one or more cats. Greg is the author of several books for middle-grade readers, including LITTLE GREEN MEN AT THE MERCURY INN; CHRONAL ENGINE; NINJAS, PIRANHAS, AND GALILEO; and TOFU AND T.REX. His next novel for middle-grade readers is BORROWED TIME, a sequel to CHRONAL ENGINE, and is scheduled for release in Fall 2015.

BORROWED TIME

In this time-travel dinosaur adventure, Max Pierson-Takahashi and his friend Petra return to the days of the dinosaurs, where they must survive attacks from mosasaurs, tyrannosaurs, and other deadly creatures, including a vengeful, pistol-toting girl from the 1920s. The fast pace, mind-bending time twists, and Greg Leitich Smith’s light, humorous touch make this an exciting, fun choice for readers looking for adventure and nonstop action.

John Warner Smith

JOHN WARNER SMITH began writing poetry while building a successful professional career as a public administrator and a banker. His debut poetry collection, A Mandala of Hands, was published in late 2014 by Aldrich Press / Kelsay Books.

Smith earned his MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans Low-Residency MFA Program, where he completed summer residencies in San Miguel, Mexico and Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon completing the MFA, he received a fellowship to attend the Cave Canem Retreat, a three-year writing program founded by Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady. Smith is also a three-time participant of the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, where he studied under poets Tracy K. Smith and Terrance Hayes. Smith credits Tracy K. Smith for helping him to challenge point of view and see a poem as something “becoming” rather than being.

Smith’s poems have appeared in Ploughshares, Callaloo, Antioch Review, The Worcester Review, Kestrel, Bloodroot Literary Magazine, American Athenaeum, Fourteen Hills: The San Francisco State University Review and other literary journals. His book-length manuscript was a finalist in the 2013 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award competition, and his short collection, “Hunting Dragonflies,” was a finalist in the 2012 Poetry Contest of the Tennessee Williams / New Orleans Literary Festival.

Smith teaches English, African American Literature, and Creative Writing at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Since November 2007, he has directed Education’s Next Horizon, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to reforming public education in Louisiana.

http://www.johnwarnersmith.com

BORROWED TIME

A MANDALA OF HANDS
DJ Stout

Stout was the art director of Texas Monthly between 1987 and 1999, and he has been a partner in Pentagram’s Austin office since 2000. He is the author and designer of The Amazing Tale of Mr. Herbert and His Fabulous Alpine Cowboys Baseball Club: An Illustrated History of the Best Little Semipro Baseball Team in Texas.

An internationally renowned graphic designer and partner in Pentagram, the world’s most famous graphic design firm, DJ Stout is a fifth-generation Texan whose strong sense of place has inspired his design work for over thirty-five years. His contributions to Texas Monthly, where he was art director for thirteen years, helped the magazine win three National Magazine Awards. American Photo magazine named Stout one of its “100 Most Important People in Photography,” and I.D. (International Design) magazine selected him for “The I.D. Fifty,” its annual listing of design innovators. The Society of Illustrators honored Stout with the national Richard Gangel Art Director Award, and he was made a Fellow of the Austin chapter of the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) for his lifetime achievements.

Variations on a Rectangle presents both a career retrospective of DJ Stout’s work and his inimitable, often humorous perspectives on publication design. Using nearly eight hundred images to illustrate more than two hundred fifty major design projects, Stout describes the inspiration and creative process behind his highly innovative designs for magazines, books, brochures, posters, and even a fiberglass “batcow.” He tells fascinating, behind-the-scenes stories of Texas personalities such as Tommy Lee Jones, Sissy Spacek, and Ann Richards, who figured prominently in Texas Monthly’s pages, while also discussing how his Texas heritage has influenced his more recent design work US and international clients.

An essential primer for younger graphic designers and a revelation for everyone who values exceptional design, Variations on a Rectangle proves Stout’s maxim, “A publication without style is just a document, and documents don’t do well on the newsstand. And that’s why you need editorial art directors. Amen.”

Rachel Swaby

Rachel Swaby is a freelance journalist. Her work has appeared in the Runner’s World, Wired, O, The Oprah Magazine, NewYorker.com, Afar, and others. She is a senior editor at Longshot magazine, the editor-in-chief of The Connective: Issue 1, a former research editor at Wired, and a past presenter at Pop-Up magazine. She lives in Brooklyn.

**Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science—and the World**

In 2013, the New York Times published an obituary for Yvonne Brill. It began: “She made a mean beef stroganoff, followed her husband from job to job, and took eight years off from work to raise three children.” It wasn’t until the second paragraph that readers discovered why the Times had devoted several hundred words to her life: Brill was a brilliant rocket scientist who invented a propulsion system to keep communications satellites in orbit, and had recently been awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Among the questions the obituary—and consequent outcry—prompted were, Who are the role models for today’s female scientists, and where can we find the stories that cast them in their true light?

Headstrong delivers a powerful, global, and engaging response. Covering Nobel Prize winners and major innovators, as well as lesser-known but hugely significant scientists who influence our every day, Rachel Swaby’s vibrant profiles span centuries of courageous thinkers and illustrate how each one’s ideas developed, from their first moment of scientific engagement through the research and discovery for which they’re best known. This fascinating tour reveals these 52 women at their best—while encouraging and inspiring a new generation of girls to put on their lab coats.
Don Tate

Don Tate is an award-winning author and the illustrator of numerous critically acclaimed books for children. The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch (Eerdmans Publishing, April, 2015), written by Chris Barton and illustrated by Tate has received a starred review from Publishers Weekly and is on the 2016-17 Bluebonnet Master List. Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton, written and illustrated by Tate, was published in September of 2015 and received 3 starred reviews.

In 2013 he earned the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor Award for It Jes Happened: When Bill Traylor Learned to Draw. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Tate currently resides in Austin, Texas with his wife and son. In his spare time, he enjoys yoga, swimming, and inspiring young writers and artists.

Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton

In the nineteenth century, North Carolina slave George Moses Horton taught himself to read and earned money to purchase his time away from his master though not his freedom. Horton became the first African American to be published in the South, protesting slavery in the form of verse.

Wayne Thorburn

Wayne Thorburn, who holds a PhD in political science, brings a lifetime of political involvement to the task of tracing the transformation of Texas politics since 1960. When Texas elected its first Republican governor in 104 years, he was executive director of the state party. Thorburn was involved in the election of President George H. W. Bush and then directed the coordinated campaign that in 1996 elected all statewide Republican candidates for the first time.

In November 1960, the Democratic party dominated Texas. The newly elected vice president, Lyndon Johnson, was a Texan. Democrats held all thirty statewide elective positions. The state legislature had 181 Democrats and no Republicans or anyone else. Then fast forward fifty years to November 2010. Texas has not voted for a Democratic president since 1976. Every statewide elective office is held by Republicans. Representing Texas in Washington is a congressional delegation of twenty-five Republicans and nine Democrats. Republicans control the Texas Senate by a margin of nineteen to twelve and the Texas House of Representatives by 101 to 49.

Red State explores why this transformation of Texas politics took place and what these changes imply for the future. As both a political scientist and a Republican party insider, Wayne Thorburn is especially qualified to explain how a solidly one-party Democratic state has become a Republican stronghold. He analyzes a wealth of data to show how changes in the state’s demographics—including an influx of new residents, the shift from rural to urban, and the growth of the Mexican American population—have moved Texas through three stages of party competition, from two-tiered politics, to two-party competition between Democrats and Republicans, and then to the return to one-party dominance, this time by Republicans. His findings reveal that the shift from Democratic to Republican governance has been driven not by any change in Texans’ ideological perspective or public policy orientation—even when Texans were voting Democrat, conservatives outnumbered liberals or moderates—but by the Republican party’s increasing identification with conservatism since 1960.
Merritt Tierce

Merritt Tierce was born and raised in Texas and received her MFA in fiction writing from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. The National Book Foundation named her a 2013 “5 Under 35” honoree, and she was a recipient of a 2011 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award. Her first novel, Love Me Back, was shortlisted for the PEN/Bingham award and won the Texas Institute of Letters’ Steven Turner Award for First Fiction. She has been a fellow at the Yaddo artists’ colony and Omi International Arts Center, and lives in Denton TX with her husband and children.

Love Me Back – A Novel

A Chicago Tribune, Electric Literature, and BookRiot Best Book of the Year

A National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” Author

Marie is a waitress at an upscale Dallas steakhouse, attuned to the appetites of her patrons and gifted at hiding her private struggle as a young single mother behind an easy smile and a crisp white apron. It’s a world of long hours and late nights, and Marie often gives in to self-destructive impulses, losing herself in a tangle of bodies and urgent highs as her desire for obliteration competes with a stubborn will to survive.

Pulsing with a fierce and feral energy, Love Me Back is an unapologetic portrait of a woman cutting a precarious path through early adulthood and the herald of a powerful new voice in American fiction.

Omar Valerio-Jiménez

Omar Valerio-Jiménez, Associate Professor of History, was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and grew up in Taft, Corpus Christi, and Edinburg, Texas. After graduating from MIT, he worked as an engineer for five years before returning to graduate school at UCLA, where he obtained his master’s and doctorate degrees. Dr. Valerio-Jiménez has taught courses on borderlands, Latinas/os, immigration, and the American West at universities in California, New York, Texas, and Iowa. He has also been involved in several research and public engagement projects to publicize Latina/o history and to promote Latina/o Studies.

In River of Hope, Omar S. Valerio-Jiménez examines state formation, cultural change along the Mexico-United States border during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. His second book project is a transnational study of the U.S.-Mexican War that examines memory, identity, and civil rights. Dr. Valerio-Jiménez is a co-editor of Major Problems in Latina/o History (Cengage Learning, 2014), and a co-editor of The Latina/o Midwest Reader (University of Illinois Press, forthcoming 2016). His articles have appeared in the Journal of Women’s History, Estudios Mexicanos/Mexican Studies, and the Journal of American Ethnic History. In support of his research and writing, he has obtained fellowships from SMU’s William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, the Western History Association, UCSD’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, the Charles Redd Center, and the Newberry Library.

In River of Hope, Omar S. Valerio-Jiménez examines state formation, cultural change, and the construction of identity in the lower Rio Grande region during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He chronicles a history of violence resulting from multiple conquests, of resistance and accommodation to state power, and of changing ethnic and political identities. The redrawing of borders neither began nor ended the region’s long history of unequal power relations. Nor did it lead residents to adopt singular colonial or national identities. Instead, their regionalism, transnational cultural practices, and kinship ties subverted state attempts to control and divide the population. Diverse influences transformed the borderlands as Spain, Mexico, and the United States competed for control of the region. Indian slaves joined Spanish society; Mexicans allied with Indians to defend river communities; Anglo Americans and Mexicans intermarried and collaborated; and women sued to confront spousal abuse and to secure divorces. Drawn into multiple conflicts along the border, Mexican nationals and Mexican Texans (tejanos) took advantage of their transnational social relations and ambiguous citizenship to escape criminal prosecution, secure political refuge, and obtain economic opportunities. To confront the racialization of their cultural practices and their increasing criminalization, tejanos claimed citizenship rights within the United States and, in the process, created a new identity.

Love Me Back

River of Hope
Dax Varley writes the kinds of stories and books she wishes were around when she was a teen. She’s the author of Sleepy Hollow, Return to Sleepy Hollow, Bleed, and Nightmare House. Dax enjoys reading and writing horror and loves all the eerie things that go bump in the night.

BLEED – Welcome to Suicide High

Life is a nightmare for Miranda Murphy. Without knowing when or why, blood oozes from her palms—an anomaly that makes her feel like a freak. But her abnormality is now the least of her worries. She’s just enrolled at “Suicide High.” Three deaths in three months—one occurring just days before her arrival.

When she bumps into a cute boy named Jake, things don’t appear so glum. Especially since Jake’s a psychic who can predict the immediate future. But his gift of sight can’t prepare her for the horrors that await.

Through Jake, Miranda meets three other extraordinary students:

Topher – who can heal by touch.

Sam – who eats the sins of the dead.

And Xyan – who speaks and understands all languages.

It’s then that Miranda learns the secret behind why she bleeds.

When it becomes evident that supernatural forces are at play, the five determined friends team up. Now it’s up to them to destroy the evil that’s infecting their school.

Emma J. Virján was born under an Aries moon on a Wednesday, her dad’s bowling night. She loves to draw, work in her garden and often lets her dog sleep on the couch. She makes her home in Austin, Texas, where she spends her days as an illustrator and graphic designer. Unlike Pig, Emma has never worn a wig, but she is thinking of buying one - a red one, of course.

What This Story Needs is a Hush and a Shush

What this bedtime needs is a pig in a wig brushing her teeth, combing her hair and getting ready for bed with her pink teddy bear.

But with a honk, a quack, a moo, and more, it turns out what this bedtime really needs is a quieter place to sleep!

Pig is back in another fun read-aloud picture book, and this time, all she wants to do is get some sleep, but the farm animals are keeping her wide awake. Join Pig on the farm and find out if she’ll ever catch some zzzs!

Visit Emma J. Virján at emmavirjan.com
Courtney White

A former archaeologist and Sierra Club activist, Courtney White dropped out of the ‘conflict industry’ in 1997 to co-found the Quivira Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to building bridges between ranchers, conservationists, public land managers, scientists and others around practices that improve land health (see www.quiviracoalition.org). Today, his writing and conservation work focuses on building economic and ecological resilience on working landscapes, with a special emphasis on carbon ranching and the new agrarian movement.


In 2010, Courtney was given the Michael Currier Award for Environmental Service by the New Mexico Community Foundation. In 2012, he was a writer-in-residence at the U Cross Foundation, in northwestern Wyoming, and he was the first Aldo Leopold Writer-in-Residence at Mi Casita, in Tres Piedras, New Mexico, courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service.


In 2014, his book Grass, Soil, Hope: a Journey through Carbon Country was published by Chelsea Green Press and included a Foreword by Michael Pollan.


More of Courtney’s work can be found on his web site: www.awestthatworks.com

He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his family and a backyard full of chickens.

Jo Whittemore

Jo Whittemore is the author of the tween humor novels Front Page Face-Off, Odd Girl In, D is for Drama, Colonial Madness and the Confidentially Yours series. She also penned The Silverskin Legacy fantasy trilogy. Jo is a member of the SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators) and is one of the founding members of The Texas Sweethearts & Scoundrels. When she isn’t writing, Jo spends her time with family and friends in Austin.

CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS, BOOK 1: BROOKE’S NOT-SO-PERFECT-PLAN
Brooke, Vanessa, and Heather have been friends for as long as they can remember, and they’re positive they’ll rock their first year of middle school. The trio decides to sign up for a journalism elective, and they find themselves columnists for the school’s newspaper, the Lincoln Log. They and their new friend Tim are put in charge of the advice column!

The year is going perfectly for Brooke. She has her friends, her travel soccer team, the advice column, and a lot of new activities . . . but maybe too many activities. As Brooke struggles to balance all her commitments and schoolwork, she realizes she may have bitten off more than she can chew. Can she figure out how to have it all and stay on the advice column without sacrificing her other responsibilities?

CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS, BOOK 2: VANESSA’S FASHION FACE-OFF
Vanessa Jackson has style to spare and an amazing ability to rock any look. She’s always had a flair for fashion, and dreams of being a designer one day. She’s loving middle school, and being on the newspaper staff with her two best friends is a blast. Vanessa knows her fashion advice is always on point for the group’s popular advice column.

But then she meets her new neighbor, Katie Kestler. Katie is cute, super-stylish, and just moved from glamorous LA. When Katie ends up attending the same middle school, suddenly it seems like Katie’s everywhere, and not in a good way. But when an advice-off competition threatens Vanessa’s spot on the column, she’s determined to take Katie down.
Tim Wise

Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and educators in the United States. Named one of “25 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World,” by Utne Reader, Wise has spoken in all 50 states, on over 800 college and high school campuses, and to community groups across the nation. He has also lectured internationally in Canada and Bermuda on issues of comparative racism, race and education, racism and religion, and racism in the labor market.

Wise is the author of seven books, including his latest, Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America (City Lights Books). Other books include Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Books); his highly acclaimed memoir, White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son (recently updated and re-released by Soft Skull Press); Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White; Speaking Treason Fluently: Anti-Racist Reflections From an Angry White Male; Between Barack and a Hard Place: Racism and White Denial in the Age of Obama; and Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity.

Wise has provided anti-racism training to teachers nationwide, and has conducted trainings with physicians and medical industry professionals on how to combat racial inequities in health care. He has also trained corporate, government, entertainment, military and law enforcement officials on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions, and has served as a consultant for plaintiff's attorneys in federal discrimination cases in New York and Washington State.

In Summer 2005, Wise served as an adjunct faculty member at the Smith College School for Social Work, in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he co-taught a Master's level class on Racism in the U.S. In 2001, Wise trained journalists to eliminate racial bias in reporting, as a visiting faculty-in-residence at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida. From 1999-2003, Wise was an advisor to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute, in Nashville, and in the early '90s he was Youth Coordinator and Associate Director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism: the largest of the many groups organized for the purpose of defeating neo-Nazi political candidate, David Duke.

Wise has been featured in several documentaries, including the 2013 Media Education Foundation release, “White Like Me: Race, Racism and White Privilege in America.” The film, which he co-wrote and co-produced, has been called “a phenomenal educational tool in the struggle against racism,” and “one of the best films made on the unfinished quest for racial justice,” by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva of Duke University, and Robert Jensen of the University of Texas, respectively. He also appeared alongside legendary scholar and activist, Angela Davis, in the 2011 documentary, “Vocabulary of Change.” In this public dialogue between the two activists, Davis and Wise discussed the connections between issues of race, class, gender, sexuality and militarism, as well as inter-generational movement building and the prospects for social change.

Wise has appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs, is a regular contributor to discussions about race on CNN, and has been featured on ABC’s 20/20.

He graduated from Tulane University in 1990 and received anti-racism training from the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, in New Orleans.

Roger Wood

Roger Wood is a Houston-based writer and teacher, best known for three books on roots music history published by the University of Texas Press: Down in Houston: Bayou City Blues (2003), Texas Zydeco (2006), and (co-authored with Andy Bradley) House of Hits: The Story of Houston’s Gold Star/SugarHill Recording Studios (2010). In a 2011 special issue, the Houston Press named Wood “Best Local Author” for his entire body of work, referring to him as “Houston’s prolific music historian.” He is also a longtime writer for Living Blues, an internationally distributed magazine published by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (University of Mississippi), and a frequent contributor to Texas Highways and various other periodicals.

Founded in a working-class neighborhood in southeast Houston in 1941, Gold Star/SugarHill Recording Studios is a major independent studio that has produced a multitude of influential hit records in an astonishingly diverse range of genres. Its roster of recorded musicians includes Lightnin’ Hopkins, George Jones, Willie Nelson, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Junior Parker, Clifton Chenier, Sir Douglas Quintet, 13th Floor Elevators, Freddy Fender, Kinky Friedman, Ray Benson, Guy Clark, P. Williams, Beyoncé and Destiny’s Child, and many, many more.

In House of Hits, Andy Bradley and Roger Wood chronicle the fascinating history of Gold Star/SugarHill, telling a story that effectively covers the postwar popular music industry. They describe how Houston’s lack of zoning ordinances allowed founder Bill Quinn’s house studio to grow into a large studio complex, just as SugarHill’s willingness to transcend musical boundaries transformed it into one of the most storied recording enterprises in America. The authors offer behind-the-scenes accounts of numerous hit recordings, spiced with anecdotes from studio insiders and musicians who recorded at SugarHill. Bradley and Wood also place significant emphasis on the role of technology in shaping the music and the evolution of the music business. They include in-depth biographies of regional stars and analysis of the various styles of music they represent, as well as a list of all of Gold Star/SugarHill’s recordings that made the Billboard charts and extensive selected historical discographies of the studio’s recordings.
Jennifer Ziegler

Like the Brewster triplets she writes about, Jennifer Ziegler is a native Texan and a lover of family, history, barbecue, and loyal dogs. Although she only has one sister, she does know what it is like to have four kids living in the same house. She is the author of several books for young people, including Sass & Serendipity and How Not to Be Popular. Jennifer lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, author Chris Barton, and their four children.

The Brewster triplets from Revenge of the Flower Girls meet The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, in a new, sweetly hilarious holiday story from Jennifer Ziegler!

When we last saw them, Dawn, Darby, and Delaney Brewster stopped their big sister from marrying the wrong guy, proving that they can accomplish a lot when they work together. Now, they are turning their smarts and high-energy hijinks to something completely different: their local Christmas pageant! They’ve been practicing looking wise and stroking long, fake beards in preparation for their roles.

But what if they’re not cast as the wise men? What if instead they have to play angels in the pageant? Distasteful. Deplorable. Dreadful. And it’s not like anything else is going their way this holiday season, either. Can the triplets figure out what to get for their mom, solve a mystery about a stolen Santa, and recover their holiday spirit in time for the pageant? Of course they can! And they’ll do it with humor and charm, or they’re not the Brewster triplets.

REVENGE OF THE ANGELS