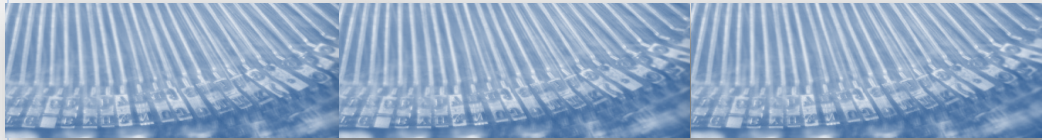


# CWW Alumni News

No 1

Winter 2008

*Still Too Bright for the Naked Eye*



Get up-to-the-minute CWW news at <http://www.cola.uno.edu/cww/cwwnews.cfm>

## CWW Headlines

**Joseph Boyden's (F 1995)**  
novel, *THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE*,



won Canada's Giller  
Prize [READ MORE](#)

**Amanda Boyden's (F1995)**



second novel, *BABYLON ROLLING*,  
was released in August of  
2008. [READ MORE](#)

**Bill Loehfelm won**



amazon.com's Breakthrough  
Novel Contest with his novel,  
*FRESH KILLS*. [READ MORE](#)

## A Message from Our Leader

Some of you may remember LakeVieux, which was printed on pastel green sheets and filled with items of interest to the CWW world. Now we have gone online, so the articles are more numerous, the updates doubtless more interesting, and the distribution list can now span the globe!

I hope that you will read with pride and affection about what our students have been up to. And I hope that you will report your own personal news to us so that we can include it in the next newsletter. If you know of CWW alums who have strayed out of our current email list, please let us know how to contact them. As you'll see, the news is good. So read on and give yourselves a collective round of applause.

YHS,  
Joanna

UNSUBSCRIBE: If you don't want to receive this newsletter by email, hit *reply* and change the subject line to *JANE, STOP THIS CRAZY THING!* Our email is [cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com](mailto:cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com)



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Harper Collins bought Barb Johnson's (F 2008) collection of short stories, MORE OF THIS



WORLD OR MAYBE ANOTHER.  
It's due out in fall 2009.

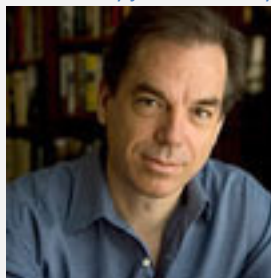


Earlier this fall, Lish McBride (F2008) signed a two book deal with Holt.



John Gery's most recent collection of poems, A GALLERY OF GHOSTS, was released earlier this year. [READ MORE](#)

Miles Harvey joined the fray



this fall. He's teaching nonfiction to the factual folks as well as their fictional cousins. He's got a new book out, too. [READ MORE](#)

## It Was Bound to Happen

In 2009, the CWW reaches its majority. We'll be eighteen, and that means a rock-n-roll song about knowing what we like or a class T-shirt (behold the capital T, Rick Barton) at the very least. Or maybe a digital alumni newsletter. We're old enough to have a large pool of accomplished alumni, for sure. Like the University itself, in just a short time and against the odds, the CWW has managed to build a hoss program out of string and bubble gum and pure inventive spirit. It is our hope that this newsletter will broaden the sense of community that has become the hallmark of the CWW.

Twice a year we'll send you what we have—articles written by alumni and alumni news-- and all year we'll take what you send us. Many of you know the parts of the history of the CWW that were lost in the Katrina shuffle. We hope you'll help us fill in the blanks. And if there's something you'd like to see in these pages, let us know. Poke around, now, and make yourself comfortable, but for goodness sake, use a coaster.

Barb Johnson  
Editor

If you've been out of the loop for a while, check out these CWW websites:

The CWW is: [www.cola.uno.edu/cww](http://www.cola.uno.edu/cww)

Bayou Magazine is: [www.cola.uno.edu/cww/bayou](http://www.cola.uno.edu/cww/bayou)

## Mapping Miles

BY APRIL BLEVINS (first year fiction student)

"We do not take trips so much as they take us," Miles Harvey writes in *The Island of Lost Maps*. As I read this passage, I tried to picture him saying it aloud in the voice he uses when imitating people. He employs the same tone for every person—his wife, his son, Studs Terkel— and it sounds a lot like Tom Brokaw. [Continued...](#)

## Graduation 2008

It was like the baby boom after WWII. Three springs after Katrina, the CWW graduated its largest class ever.

**FICTION:** Barb Johnson Casey Lefante  
Lish McBride David Parker Nason Smith  
Rachel Trujillo

**NONFICTION :** Julie Townsend  
Jeremy Tuman

**POETRY:** Gina Ferrara Ginny Kaczmarek  
Laura Miller Trisha Rezende  
Mawiyah Bomani

**SCREENWRITING:** Karen Atherton Jason Buch Rob Florence  
Josh Lane

*CWW Fun Fact:  
In 1993 we  
graduated our  
first class, two  
fiction writers  
and one  
playwright.*

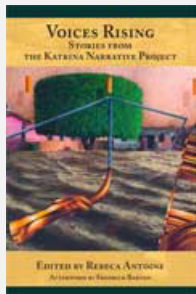
Rick Barton got himself unchained from his big Provost's desk, and he's



walking free in the halls of the English Department once again.

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**Jason Buch's (SW 2008)**  
action/comedy short film, **A MAN CALLED TROUBLE**, premiered December 14th at the Fine Arts Center in New Orleans.

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**Rebeca Antoine (F 2004)**  
edited a collection of



narratives about New Orleanians' Katrina experiences. Many of the narratives were recorded and written up by CWW students. [READ MORE](#)

## Trial by Flood

BY REBECA ANTOINE (Fiction 04)

When I first came to the Creative Writing Workshop seven years ago, I had only a vague idea of what I wanted to get out of it. My impetus, really, was to move as far away from my home in New England as possible and to try something new. I wanted to write, that was a given, but I didn't know much more than that. I didn't know how I would "use" my MFA degree, and after graduating in 2004, my writing faltered. I continued to muddle through my various projects--stories, a novel-still-in-progress, and some nonfiction essays--but I thought that teaching would be my best career outlet.

After Hurricane Katrina, I lost my job as a lecturer in the English Department at Xavier University in New Orleans. When I returned to New Orleans, I got a job as a temp at a steamship company and was very close to accepting a permanent job with them when I received a call from Rick Barton. [Continued...](#)

The Gold Room readings are still going on. If you'd like to attend, send your email address to: [goldroom@gmail.com](mailto:goldroom@gmail.com)

In November of 2008, [NOLAfugees.com](http://NOLAfugees.com), a magazine-style blog started by alumni Joe Longo (F1998) and Jarret



Lofstead (P2002), released its third book, [SOUL IS BULLETPROOF](#). [READ MORE](#)

### Help us find our people.

Click on the link below to see a list of all CWW alumni. We will never sell our email list (Ha! As if!) nor make it public in any way.

If you'd like to help us update our list, write an article or contact us for any other reason:

[cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com](mailto:cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com)

**SUBJECT LINE:  
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE BIG LIST OF CWW ALUMNI](#)

## What Y'all Been Doing?

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2008 was a mighty year for the CWW. From procreation to publication, catch up on alumni news [right here](#)

## Getting Out There

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BY ARIN BLACK (Fiction 06)

Puppies, motherhood, knitting, or starting a 401K. No matter what the topic, chances are there's a blog about it. Now available at a web connection near you, blogs, or weblogs, provide a venue for free-choice content. These personal publications, characterized by frequent posts and links to sites of interest, began in 1993, when Mosaic offered a listserv with regular posting capabilities, and expanded to the general public in 1999 when the site blogger offered its blog-building software free to the public. Now blogs have exploded onto the cyber scene as a means of personal expression, as a way to share information, and even as a clever means to make some money. For Creative Writing Workshop graduates, blogs can be an excellent means of staying sharp and getting noticed.

[Continued...](#)

## Are You on the List?

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Linked in the left hand column is a list of all CWW alumni. We'd like to hear from all of you-- about your jobs or publications or who it was that you finally married or would marry if such a thing were legal. In the left column, there's a link to a list of all CWW alumni. An asterisk next to a name means we have an email address for that person. If you know any of the asterisk-free people, be a sporty-sport, would you? Forward this newsletter to them and let them know that we miss them. Or ask them to drop us line: [cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com](mailto:cwwdigitalnews@gmail.com)

## UNO Takes a Snow Day



Between LA and Math buildings

Just before this newsletter went to press—not really, this newsletter doesn't go to press. It's just a bunch of digital files hanging in the ether—so before the files had all been hung in the ether, Alumna Casey Lefante (fiction 08) sent us some rare photos of a snow day at UNO. (Another one is on the front page.) Casey is an adjunct in the English Department these days. She and Trisha Rezende (Poetry 08), who's also an adjunct this year, had very interesting office hours that day.

## Contributors:

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**Rebeca Antoine** has recovered sufficiently from editing VOICES RISING... to begin work on a second collection of essays from the Katrina Narrative Project. At UNO, Rebeca is the assistant to the director of the CWW.

**Arin Black** has worked in fashion, television, publishing and film. She writes a regular column on the arts in New Orleans for nolaphile.com and has just completed her first novel.

**April Blevins** is a first year fiction student. Originally from New Orleans, April comes to UNO from Austin, Texas where she did her level best to eat her way through the best tacos and brisket available in the town of weird.

**Barb Johnson** is a 2008 graduate in fiction writing. In May, she sold her thesis to Harper Collins. The collection of short stories, *More of This World or Maybe Another*, is due out in fall 2009.

**Joanna Leake** is the director of the Creative Writing Workshop at UNO. According to the sign on her door, she walks softly and carries a big dog. Usually, there's a horse in there somewhere, too.