

# Creative Writing

Since its founding in 1975, the Creative Writing Program at Oberlin College has remained one of the few in the country offering a major at the undergraduate level. The major is a rigorous course of study providing training in poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, translation, and screenwriting. Two first-year courses introduce students to basic techniques of poetry and fiction. The introductory poetry/prose workshop, Creative Writing 201, acquaints students with workshop protocol and critiquing methods and is a prerequisite to the more advanced courses. The curriculum is based on the view that reading is essential to a writer's training, and most courses include extensive reading assignments. Advanced students work on individual projects in one of six major genres, and by the end of their senior year, are expected to turn in a substantial portfolio of completed work. Many majors have had internships with literary magazines and publishing houses during Winter Term. Several on-campus student publications allow Creative Writing majors the opportunity to see their work in print. Recent graduates have earned advanced degrees in Creative Writing at such institutions as Brown, Columbia, Stanford, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, and the University of Virginia, and have gone on to successful careers in writing, editing, and teaching.

On-campus readings are major events and have included such writers as J.M. Coetzee, Toni Morrison, Margaret Atwood, Maxine Hong Kingston, Rita Dove, Charles Wright, Russell Edson, Adrienne Rich, Grace Paley, Gish Jen, Maya Angelou, Tracy Chevalier, Ama Ata Aidoo, Charles Baxter, Lynda Barry, Claire Messud, Gary Snyder, and Eudora Welty.

The Oberlin College Press is run by members of the Creative Writing faculty and includes, among its publications, ongoing series in poetry and translation, as well as FIELD, an internationally recognized journal of contemporary poetry and poetics.

## The Creative Writing faculty:

**Pamela Alexander** has published three volumes of poetry and many poems and reviews in magazines. Her awards include the Yale Younger Poets prize, a Bunting Fellowship, and an

Ohio Arts grant. Her third collection, Inland, received a 1997 Iowa Award, and her fourth will be published in 2007 by Ausable Press.

**Dan Chaon** is the author of the best-selling novel, You Remind Me of Me, and two collections of stories, one of which, Among the Missing, was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award. Chaon's short fiction has appeared in many anthologies, including Best American Short Stories, The O'Henry Prize Stories, and the Pushcart Prize. He is a recipient of a 2006 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**Martha Collins** has published four volumes of poetry, as well as several translations. Her awards include a Lannan Residency, NEA and Bunting Fellowships, and a Witter Bynner Grant. Her poetry and translations have been widely anthologized. A translation, Green Rice: Poems by Lam Thi My Da was published in 2004, and her book-length poem Blue Front will appear in 2006.

**Sylvia Watanabe** is the author of Talking to the Dead, a finalist for the 1992 PEN Faulkner Award, and the co-editor of two volumes of Asian American fiction. She is the recipient of an NEA fellowship and an Ohio Arts grant. Her nonfiction and short fiction have appeared in The O'Henry Prize Stories and The Pushcart Prize Anthology.

**David Young**, Emeritus Professor of English and Creative Writing, is a founding editor of FIELD. His publications include numerous collections of poems, critical studies and translations, and several co-edited anthologies. His translation of Petrarch appeared in 2003, and a new collection of poems, Black Lab was published in early 2006.

Further inquiry is invited and should be addressed to:

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