

**THE
ADROIT
JOURNAL
SUMMER
MENTORSHIP
2016
BOOKLET**

LEARN : COLLABORATE : GROW

About the Program

As a way of maintaining and extending our deep-rooted commitment to emerging writers, *The Adroit Journal's* Summer Mentorship Program aims to pair experienced writers with high school students (as of the current academic year) interested in learning more about the creative writing processes of drafting, redrafting and editing.

The program is **free** to all, and is **entirely online**. The 2016 program will cater to the literary genres of **poetry, fiction, and nonfiction**. The aim of the mentorship program is not formalized instruction, but rather an individualized, flexible, and often informal correspondence. It is our hope that mentees will feel comfortable sharing work at their own leisure with their mentors and, ultimately, with each other.

The 2016 summer mentorship program will be open for applications via [Submittable](#) until April 15, 2016. The program will last from June 26, 2016 until August 5, 2016, and will be capped at sixty students.

Please note that this opportunity will not offer academic credit (this is a friendship, not a class!), and that participation in this workshop is not a route to publication in the journal.

Questions?

Visit us online: www.theadroitjournal.org/mentorship

Say hello: editors@theadroitjournal.org

The Application

This upcoming year's program will be open for applications via our submission manager until April 15, 2016 at 11:59 PM EST. The program will last from June 26, 2016 until August 5, 2016, and will be capped at sixty students.

Applicants should possess firm work ethic and some familiarity with the writing and workshop processes, and should be comfortable with receiving (and giving) commentary and critique. Applicants should also possess the will to explore and improve!

At the end of the day, we are looking for the best potential: the writers with the drive to explore and discuss, the courage to delete and leap, and the determination to apply what they discover to future writings.

How do I apply?

Applications for this year's mentorship program consist of two mandatory parts—a Writer's Statement and a Writing Sample, with the additional voluntary component of an academic transcript in .PDF form. **The Writer's Statement** should detail the applicant's specific interest in pursuing *The Adroit Journal's* summer mentorship program. What is it about our program and mission that piques your interest? Why this workshop? How would you spend your time with us? We want to know. Aim for between 1-1.5 pages double spaced, and don't be afraid to be creative and original. We like that.

While we of course suggest mentioning your experience and accomplishment with the writing and workshop processes, we will evaluate applications looking primarily for demonstrated passion and interest. We'd also like to suggest that you review the mission, ambition, and content of the journal for inspiration, if you find yourself stuck.

Each year, students ask for tips. Here's the biggest one we can give: **tell us why you want to spend your summer in this program, rather than a general summer writing or reading or editing**. As always, the more specifics, the better.

The Writing Sample should consist of between four and five poems or between eight and ten pages of fiction or nonfiction (excerpts acceptable).

Students who wish to apply to multiple genres may do so by utilizing both the First Choice and Second Choice options in the mentorship application form here. **Important:** If you wish to apply to more than one genre, please include two complete writing samples, one for each genre, with your second-choice genre following the first.

Submission Details

As noted above, applications should be sent via our submission manager via [this category](#). Please note that applications for this year's program will be accepted until April 15, 2016 at 11:59 PM EST. All decisions will be released by no later than May 17, 2016.

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GARRETT BIGGS

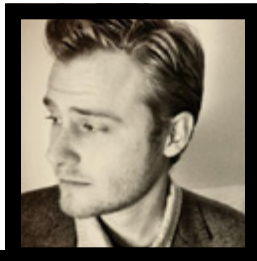


Garrett Biggs's most recent fiction is published in *CutBank*, *Necessary Fiction*, and *Paper Darts*, among several other journals. He is prose editor of *The Adroit Journal*, and lives in Denver, Colorado, where he is an undergraduate at the University of Denver.

Favorite writers:

Roberto Bolaño, Anne Carson, Valeria Luiselli

WILLIAM BREWER

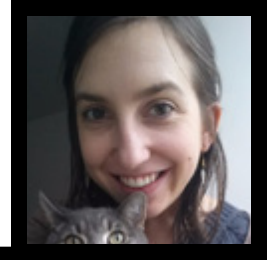


William Brewer was born and raised in West Virginia. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Boston Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *The Nation*, *A Public Space*, and other journals. He is the recipient of a Creative Writing Teaching Fellowship from Columbia University, where he earned his MFA, a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the 2015-16 Joseph F. McCrindle Online Editorial Fellowship from *Poets & Writers*, and a James Merrill Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center.

Favorite writers:

Rumi, Dorothea Lasky, Tarfia Faizullah

STEPHANIE CAWLEY



Stephanie Cawley is from southern New Jersey. She currently lives in Pittsburgh, where she is an MFA candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *H_NGM_N*, *Birdfeast*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Prelude*, *Phantom Books*, *The Collagist*, and elsewhere.

Favorite writers:

Alice Notley, CA Conrad, Fred Moten, Ursula K. Le Guin

CHEN CHEN

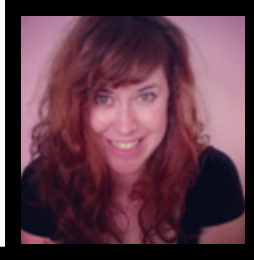


Chen Chen is the author of the chapbooks *Set the Garden on Fire* (Porkbelly Press, 2015) and *Kissing the Sphinx* (Two of Cups Press, 2016). His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Best American Poetry*, and other places. A Kundiman Fellow and a 2015 finalist for the Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowships, he is pursuing a PhD in English and Creative Writing at Texas Tech University.

Favorite writers:

Pablo Neruda, Aracelis Girmay, Jean Valentine

CAROLINE CREW



Caroline Crew is the author of *PINK MUSEUM* (Big Lucks, 2015), as well as several chapbooks. Her poetry and essays appear in *Conjunctions*, *Salt Hill Journal*, and *Black Warrior Review*, among others. She's online here: caroline-crew.com.

Favorite writers:

Jamaica Kincaid, Sarah Manguso, Eula Biss

TRISTA EDWARDS



Trista Edwards is an Ohio born, Georgia Peach living it up in Texas. Trista is currently a Doctoral Fellow in English at the University of North Texas. Her poems and reviews are published or forthcoming in *The Journal*, *Mid-American Review*, *32 Poems*, *American Literary Review*, *Stirring: A Literary Collection*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Sou'wester*, *Moon City Review*, and more. Trista is currently a contributing writer at *Luna Luna Magazine* and she recently edited the anthology *Till the Tide: An Anthology of Mermaid Poetry*, which was released early 2015.

Favorite writers:

Sylvia Plath, Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Elizabeth Bishop

CODY ERNST

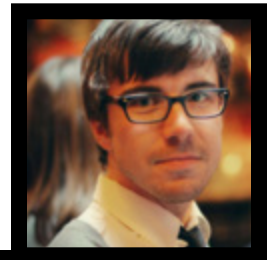


Cody Ernst's work appears in *Best New Poets 2015*, *Bat City Review*, *32 Poems*, and elsewhere. He is an instructor at The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University and serves as a poetry editor of *The Adroit Journal*.

Favorite writers:

D.A. Powell, John Ashbery, A.R. Ammons

WILLIAM FARGASON

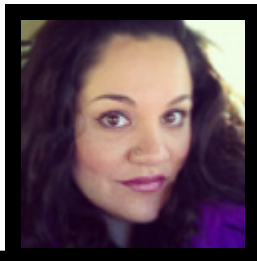


William Fargason's poetry has appeared in *New England Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Indiana Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *The Baltimore Review*, *Nashville Review*, and elsewhere. He received an award from the Academy of American Poets and a scholarship to Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. He earned a B.A. in English from Auburn University, where he served as poetry editor of *The Circle*. He earned a M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Maryland, where he taught creative writing. Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate at Florida State University. He lives with himself in Tallahassee, Florida.

Favorite writers:

Richard Siken, Sharon Olds, Elizabeth Bishop

JENNIFER GIVHAN



Jennifer Givhan is a Mexican-American poet from the Southwestern desert. Her full-length poetry collection *Landscape with Headless Mama* won the 2015 Pleiades Editors' Prize and is forthcoming in 2016. Her honors include an NEA fellowship, PEN/Rosenthal Emerging Voices fellowship, The Frost Place Latin@ Scholarship, The Pinch Poetry Prize, The DASH Poetry Prize, and work in *Best New Poets 2013*, *AGNI*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. She teaches at The Rooster Moans Poetry Coop. Visit her online at jennifergivhan.com

Favorite writers:

Claudia Emerson, Sharon Olds, Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros, Ada Limón, Ana Castillo

ANDREW GRETES

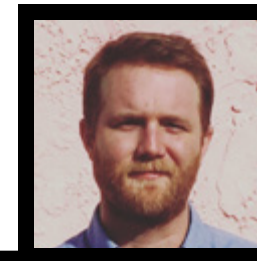


Andrew Gretes is the author of *How to Dispose of Dead Elephants* (Sandstone Press, 2014), a novel which explores epilepsy through fables. He is particularly fascinated with stories about storytelling, be they *Big Fish* or *The Arabian Nights*. Gretes' short fiction has been published in various literary journals, including *Witness* and *Word Riot*. Currently, he is a doctoral student in the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Favorite writers:

Kurt Vonnegut, Nikos Kazantzakis, Scheherazade

ALEX HIGLEY

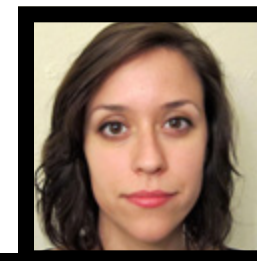


Alex Higley has been previously published by *New World Writing*, *Fanzine*, *PANK*, *Hobart*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Burrow Press Review*, and elsewhere. He contributed text to Alec Soth's *The Frank Album*. His debut story collection is forthcoming from Tailwinds Press (2017). A graduate of the Northwestern MFA program, he lives in Chicago with his wife and dog.

Favorite writers:

Brad Watson, Joy Williams, Frederick Barthelme, Lorrie Moore

ROCHELLE HURT



Rochelle Hurt is the author of two poetry collections: *In Which I Play the Runaway* (2016), winner of the Barrow Street Book Prize, and *The Rusted City* (2014), published in the Marie Alexander Series from White Pine Press. Her work has been included in *Best New Poets 2013* and awarded literary prizes from *Crab Orchard Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Hunger Mountain*, and *Poetry International*. Her poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in journals like *Crazyhorse*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *The Southeast Review*. She is a PhD student at the University of Cincinnati and Assistant Editor for the *Cincinnati Review*.

Favorite writers:

Sylvia Plath, Anne Carson, Harryette Mullen

GINA KEICHER

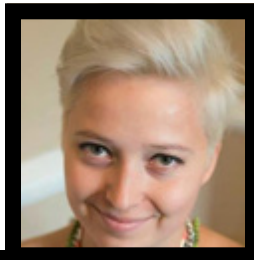


Gina Keicher is the author of the poetry collection *Wilderness Champion* (Gold Wake Press, 2014) and the chapbook *Here is My Adventure I Call it Alone* (Dancing Girl Press, 2015). Her poetry has appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Best of the Net*, *Pinwheel*, and *Whiskey Island*. She is currently an associate editor for Black Lawrence Press and a bookseller in Ithaca, New York.

Favorite writers:

Heather Christle, Christopher Kennedy, Frank Stanford

TAISIA KITAIKAIA



Taisia Kitaiskaia is a poet living in Austin, TX. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Pleiades*, *jubilat*, *Guernica*, *The Missouri Review*, *Juked*, *Gulf Coast*, *West Branch*, *Phantom Limb*, *Fence*, *Witness*, *Sixth Finch*, *Cimarron Review*, and elsewhere. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and her manuscript, "Hello My Unspeakable Name," was a finalist for the 2015 Southern Voices Poetry Prize and the 2015 Cleveland State University Poetry Center's First Book Prize. Recipient of a Michener Center for Writers fellowship, she is the current managing editor of *Bat City Review*.

Favorite writers:

Anne Carson, Wallace Stevens, Virginia Woolf

PETER LABERGE



Peter LaBerge is the author of the chapbook *Hook* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2015), selected for the American Library Association's 2016 Over the Rainbow List. His work appears in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Iowa Review*, *Sixth Finch*, *Colorado Review*, *Best New Poets 2014*, and *Indiana Review*, among others. He is the recipient of a fellowship from the Bucknell University Stadler Center for Poetry, and the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Adroit Journal*. He lives in Philadelphia, where he is an undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. Find him online at peterlaberge.com.

Favorite writers:

Tarfia Faizullah, Terrance Hayes, Li-Young Lee, Ocean Vuong

KEEGAN LESTER

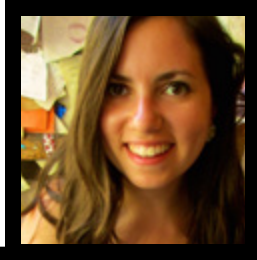


Keegan Lester is an American poet who splits time between New York City and Morgantown, West Virginia. He earned his MFA in poetry from Columbia University. His poems have been published in *The Adroit Journal*, *The Atlas Review*, *Powder Keg*, *The Journal*, *Barn Owl Review*, *Sixth Finch*, and *CutBank*, among others, and have been featured at ColdFront, NPR, and The New School Writing Blog. He performs poetry monthly with the NYC Poetry Brothel. He co-founded the lit journal *Souvenir* and the Brooklyn reading series MetroRhythm. His manuscript "We Both Go Together If One Falls Down" was a finalist for the 2016 Georgia Poetry Prize.

Favorite writers:

Li-Young Lee, Nikki Giovanni, Josh Bell, Scott Mcclanahan, Richard Siken, Aimee Bender

LUCIA LOTEMPIO



Lucia LoTempio hails from Buffalo, NY and is currently an instructor and MFA candidate in Poetry at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a sucker for tiny animals and tiny babies. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *Bayou Magazine*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Linebreak*, *Thrush Poetry Journal*, and elsewhere. She was a finalist for the *Black Warrior Review* 10th Annual Contest in Poetry and for the *Winter Tangerine* Annual Awards. Lucia is Managing Editor of *The Adroit Journal*, counts for VIDA, and is on the advisory board for *Gandy Dancer*.

Favorite writers:

Rebecca Lindenberg, Terrance Hayes, Richard Siken

CARLY JOY MILLER



Carly Joy Miller's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Adroit Journal*, *Blackbird*, *Boston Review*, *Meridian*, and elsewhere. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was a finalist for the Stadler Fellowship. She is a contributing editor for *Poetry International* and a founding editor of Locked Horn Press.

Favorite writers:

Katie Ford, Seamus Heaney, Brigit Pegeen Kelly

MATT W. MILLER

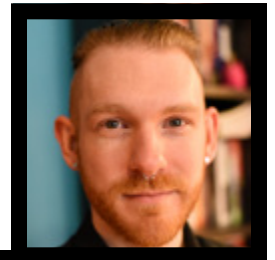


Matt W. Miller was born and raised in Lowell, Massachusetts. He is the author of *Club Icarus*, winner of the 2012 Vassar Miller Poetry Prize, and *Cameo Diner: Poems*. The recipient of a Wallace Stegner Poetry Fellowship at Stanford University and a Walter E. Dakin Poetry Fellowship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, his work has appeared or will appear in *Slate*, *Harvard Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *River Styx*, *The Adroit Journal*, *The Rumpus*, and other journals. He teaches at Phillips Exeter Academy and lives in coastal New Hampshire with his family.

Favorite writers:

Elizabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, Derek Walcott

STEPHEN MILLS

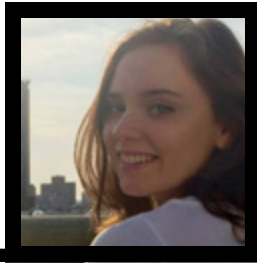


Stephen S. Mills is the author of the Lambda Award-winning book *He Do the Gay Man in Different Voices* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012) and *A History of the Unmarried* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2014). He earned his MFA from Florida State University. His work has appeared in *The Antioch Review*, *PANK*, *The New York Quarterly*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Knockout*, *Assaracus*, *The Rumpus*, and others. He is also the winner of the 2008 Gival Press Oscar Wilde Poetry Award and the 2014 Christopher Hewitt Award for Fiction. He lives in New York City where he writes, teaches, and works in health education. Website: www.stephensmills.com

Favorite writers:

Frank O'Hara, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Percival Everett, Denise Duhamel, Jillian Weise

FRANI O'TOOLE

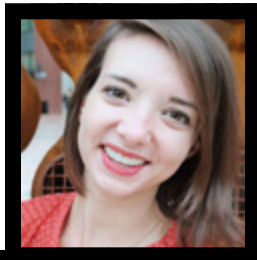


Frani O'Toole is an undergraduate student at Yale University. An alumna of the Iowa Young Writer's Studio, she has been or will soon be published in *The Adroit Journal*, *The Blueshift Journal*, *StreetWise*, *The Yale Daily News Magazine*, and *Polyphony H.S.* In her work behind the scenes, she has served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Polyphony H.S.* and is currently an Associate Editor of *The Yale Daily News Magazine*.

Favorite writers:

Laura Kasischke, Jack Kerouac, Salvador Plascencia

MEGAN PEAK

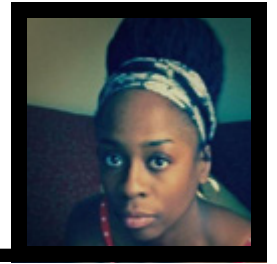


Megan Peak holds a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry from The Ohio State University. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *Blackbird*, *Cimarron Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *Indiana Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Linebreak*, *Muzzle*, *Ninth Letter*, *North American Review*, and *Ploughshares*. She currently teaches at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, where she is a Lecturer in the English Department.

Favorite writers:

Sylvia Plath, C.D. Wright, Kiki Petrosino, Aracelis Girmay, Louise Glück

MARIA PINTO



Maria Pinto was born in Jamaica and grew up in South Florida. You can find her recent work in *Word Riot*, *Bartleby Snopes*, *The Butter*, *FLAPPERHOUSE*, and *Cleaver Magazine*, among other fine publications. She was an Ivan Gold fellow at the Writers' Room of Boston, in the city where she lives and does karaoke. Her debut novel is in search of a loving home. She's hard at work on her second.

Favorite writers:

Chris Bachelder, Jamaica Kincaid, Lydia Davis

CHRISTINA QIU



Christina Qiu was named a 2015 United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts for Writing (Short Story). Her work has appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Winter Tangerine Review*, *Bartleby Snopes*, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the Million Writer's Award. Originally from New Jersey, she is now a student at Harvard College, where she has a newspaper column entitled "New Romantix" that analyzes culture through the context of emotion.

Favorite writers:

Toni Morrison, William Faulkner, Ntozake Shange

DOUGLAS RAY

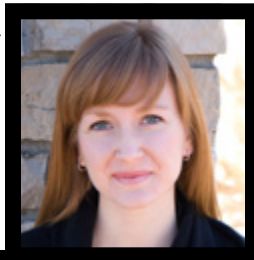


Douglas Ray is author of *He Will Laugh*, a collection of poems, and editor of *The Queer South: LGBTQ Writers on the American South*, a Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Anthology. He received his M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Mississippi and is currently Poet-in-Residence at Indian Springs School, where he also directs the school's Visiting Writers Series.

Favorite writers:

Tim Dlugos, Federico Garcia Lorca, Natasha Trethewey

NANCY REDDY



Nancy Reddy is the author of *Double Jinx* (Milkweed Editions, 2015), selected by Alex Lemon for the 2014 National Poetry Series. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *32 Poems*, *Smartish Pace*, *Best New Poets*, *Best of the Net*, and elsewhere. She holds a PhD in Composition and Rhetoric and an MFA in poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was the founding Reviews and Interviews Editor of *Devil's Lake*. As Assistant Professor of Writing and First Year Studies at Stockton University in southern New Jersey, she teaches courses in composition, research, and creative writing.

Favorite writers:

Larry Levis, Erika Meitner, Louise Glück

JIM REDMOND



Jim Redmond received his MFA from the University of Michigan and is currently a PhD candidate in the Creative Writing program at the University of North Texas. He has been a poetry reader for *Drunken Boat* and *American Literary Review*. Some of his poetry has been published or is forthcoming in *Blackbird*, *BOAAT*, *Redivider*, *PANK*, and *TYPO*, among others. His collection of poems, *Shirts or Skins*, won one of Heavy Feather Review's 2013 chapbook prizes.

Favorite writers:

Yusef Komunyakaa, Ariana Reines, Bob Hicok

MICHELLE ROSS

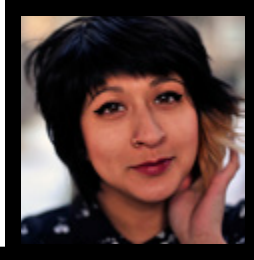


Michelle Ross's fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Adroit Journal*, *cream city review*, *The Common*, *Fiction Southeast*, *Hobart*, *Necessary Fiction*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Word Riot*, and other journals. Her work has been twice nominated for the 2017 Pushcart Prize and has won prizes from *Gulf Coast*, *Main Street Rag*, and *Sixfold*. She has an MFA from Indiana University. She lives in Tucson, Arizona and serves as Fiction Editor for *Atticus Review*.

Favorite writers:

Amy Hempel, Mary Gaitskill, Flannery O'Connor, Eric Puchner, Lorrie Moore, Lindsay Hunter, George Saunders

RAENA SHIRALI

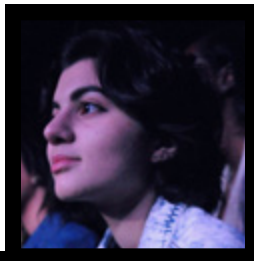


Raena Shirali is an Indian American poet living in Charleston, SC, where she teaches English at College of Charleston. Her first book, *GILT*, is forthcoming in 2016 with YesYes Books, and her work has appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *Four Way Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Ninth Letter*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *Pleiades*, and many more. Her other honors include a 2016 Pushcart Prize, the 2014 *Gulf Coast Poetry Prize*, and a "Discovery" / *Boston Review Poetry Prize* in 2013.

Favorite writers:

Lynda Hull, Sharon Olds, Brenda Shaughnessy

TALIN TAHAJIAN



Talin Tahajian grew up near Boston. Her poetry has recently appeared in *Salt Hill Journal*, *Indiana Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Best New Poets 2014*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Washington Square Review*. She's the author of half a split chapbook, *START WITH DEAD THINGS* (Midnight City Books, 2015), and serves as a poetry editor for *The Adroit Journal*. Her other chapbook, *POP STAR WITH RAINBOW SNOW CONE*, was recently a finalist for the 2015 Button Poetry Chapbook Contest. She is currently a student at the University of Cambridge, where she studies English literature.

Favorite writers:

Franny Choi, Laura Eve Engel, Phillip B. Williams, Meghan Privitello, Shane Jones

JEFF WHITNEY

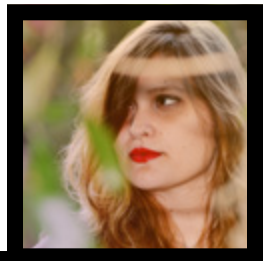


Jeff Whitney is the author of the poetry collection *The Tree With Lights in it* (2015). With Philip Schaefer, he co-authored *Smoke Tones* (2015) and *Radio Silence*, winner of the 2014 Black River Chapbook competition. His poems have appeared in such places as *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Blackbird*, *Colorado Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Salt Hill*, and *Verse Daily*. He lives and teaches in Portland, Oregon.

Favorite writers:

Larry Lewis, Joanna Klink, Tim Seibles

EMILY PAIGE WILSON



Emily Paige Wilson was raised in North Carolina, where she is currently a graduate teaching assistant and MFA candidate at UNCW. Her work has appeared in *The Boiler Journal*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *PANK*, among others. Her poetry centers on language, translation theory, and her Czech heritage. She won the 2012 Emma Howell Memorial Prize and was first runner-up for the 2014 *Indiana Review Poetry Prize*. She rules her life like a fine skylark and is working on her crow pose. Tweet her: [@Emmy_Golightly](https://twitter.com/Emmy_Golightly).

Favorite writers:

Mina Loy, Bhanu Kapil, Michael Burkard

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

It is incredibly difficult (read: impossible) to quantify any given student's writing skill in the greater context of other students.

More than anything else, we view the existing competitive nature of opportunities for emerging writers [such as this mentorship program, for example] as a necessary evil. As is the case with adult writers, we view writing as an inherently collaborative, connection-based activity, not a competitive one, and like to stress the former throughout the duration of the mentorship.

That said, we recognize the unique and meaningful doors that the following awards programs (and many others!) unlock for students who—through a combination of aesthetic luck and, yes, substantial talent, promise, and potential—are fortunate enough to be recognized at the highest level.

We are grateful for the existence of such opportunities for those that they are able to recognize, and encourage our mentees to view rejection as an inevitable component of the submission process, as a force (albeit a frustrating one) that all writers face in their early careers.

With this mindset, we are incredibly proud to cheer from the sidelines for all of our mentorship students, whether they choose to participate in and/or are eligible for such awards programs or not.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Each year, the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers partners with more than 100 visual arts and literary arts organizations across the country to bring the Awards to local communities. Each year, teens in grades 7 through 12 apply in 29 categories of art and writing. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Last year, students submitted 300,000 works of art and writing to the Awards; 13,000 works of art and writing were recognized with Gold Keys [the top regional award] and celebrated in local exhibitions and ceremonies. From this batch, the top 2,000 works in the country earned National Medals and were later celebrated at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall. Selections from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are published in the National Catalog and The Best Teen Writing, which are distributed to schools and libraries nationwide.

—Alliance for Young Artists and Writers Website

Since its inception in 2013, the mentorship program has educated students who have received more than a **hundred National Scholastic Gold and Silver Medals for Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Story, Personal Essay/Memoir, Dramatic Script, and Senior Writing Portfolio**, among others, as well as a host of **American Voices Medals**, bestowed to work selected as the best of its geographical region.

The **2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** regional results were released in early February, and members of the Adroit mentorship network received a total of **124 Regional Gold Keys**, the top regional honor for submitted work, in the following categories:

WRITING GOLD KEYS: 112

Senior Writing Portfolio: 15

Critical Essay: 3

Dramatic Script: 3

Flash Fiction: 10

Journalism: 2

Personal Essay/Memoir: 9

Poetry: 60

Short Story: 10

ART GOLD KEYS: 12

AMERICAN VOICES AWARD NOMINATIONS: 3

Click [here](#) to see a full list of National Scholastic Awards received by Adroit students.

Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is sponsored by the Poetry Society of the United Kingdom, and recognizes poems written by any young poet aged 11-17. Each year 100 winners (85 Commendations and 15 Overall Winners) are selected by a team of high profile judges. The winners receive their awards at an annual prize-giving event on National Poetry Day, and are published in The Guardian as well as an internationally distributed anthology released by the Awards.

— [The Poetry Society Website](#)

The Adroit Journal has been fortunate enough to mentor **seven students recognized as Overall Winners of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award:**

Emily Burns (2012 — New York, USA)
Flora de Falbe (2012 — London, UK)
Caroline Harris (2013 — California, USA)
Emma Lister (2013 — Devon, UK)
Rebecca Alifimoff (2014 — Indiana, USA)
Audrey Spensley (2014 — Ohio, USA)
Ben Read (2015 — Washington, USA)

In addition, the journal has worked with students who have received **more than 20 Commendations from the Awards** since 2012.

Click [here](#) to watch an interview with mentorship student Rebecca Alifimoff on BBC.

Click [here](#) to see a full list of Foyle Young Poets of the Year Awards received by Adroit students.

YoungArts Awards

The National YoungArts Foundation identifies and nurtures the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts and assists them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Each year, students between the ages of 15 and 18 are recognized as Finalists, Honorable Mentions, or Merit Award Recipients.

YoungArts serves as the exclusive nominating agency for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts designation, the country's highest honor for young artists. Presidential Scholars in the Arts receive a Presidential Medal at the White House and perform at the Kennedy Center and exhibit at the Smithsonian.

YoungArts alumni who have become leading professionals in their fields include Vanessa Williams, Viola Davis, Kerry Washington, Nicki Minaj, Desmond Richardson, and Ricky Ubeda, as well as acclaimed writers Sam Lipsyte, Allegra Goodman, and Naomi Wolf, among others.

YoungArts aspires to create a community of alumni that provides a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

— [YoungArts Website](#)

The Adroit Journal has supported **48 high school writers who have been recognized for Poetry, Short Story, Creative Non-fiction, Dramatic Script, Novel, and Spoken Word**, as well as **Music — Piano** and **Cinematic Arts**. Many of these students have ultimately been recognized as United States Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

The list of **2016 United States Presidential Scholar nominees** was released in January, and members of the Adroit mentorship network received a total of four nominations in the following categories:

Walker Caplan (Seattle, Wash.) — Academics
Lindsay Emi (Calabasas, Calif.) — Writing: Creative Nonfiction
Lucy Silbaugh (Jenkintown, Penn.) — Writing: Short Story
Audrey Spensley (Avon Lake, Ohio) — Writing: Poetry

Prose Editor **Isabella Nilsson** has also been nominated for the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar designation, for Writing: Short Story.

Click [here](#) to see a full list of YoungArts Awards & U.S. Presidential Scholar designations received by Adroit students.

Other Recent News

February 2016: **Talin Tahajian** (Mentee, 2013) has published poetry in *Salt Hill Journal*, *Indiana Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Best New Poets 2014*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Washington Square Review*, among others. She has been recognized as a semi-finalist for the "Discovery"/*Boston Review* Poetry Prize, as well as a finalist for the *Indiana Review* Poetry Prize, the *Black Warrior Review* Poetry Prize, the Black River Chapbook Competition from Black Lawrence Press, and most recently the Button Poetry Chapbook Contest. Currently, she reads English as a second-year undergraduate student at the University of Cambridge, and has mentored for the summer mentorship program since 2014.

February 2016: **Carissa Chen** (Poetry Mentor: Aria Aber, 2015) was named one of two runners-up for the *Kenyon Review's* 2016 Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize, selected by Editor-at-Large Natalie Shapero from nearly 1,000 submissions. Her poem "Parable" will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Kenyon Review*.

January 2016: **Alex Greenberg** (Poetry Mentee: Cody Ernst, 2015), currently a junior at the Fieldston School in New York, may be sixteen, but his poetry appears or will soon appear *Salt Hill Journal*, *Puerto Del Sol*, *DIALOGIST*, *Grist*, *The Florida Review*, and *The Cortland Review*, among others.

January 2016: Mentorship Founder & Director **Peter LaBerge** and Mentee-Turned-Mentor **Talin Tahajian** were featured in *Teen Vogue* as 2/9 of "[These Nine Young Poets Are Actually Making the Genre Cool Again](#)," alongside Danez Smith and Sarah Kay. Also included are *The Adroit Journal* contributors Fatimah Asghar, sam sax, and Ocean Vuong. (Though, really, poetry has always been cool.)

January 2016: **Jacob Oet** (Mentee, 2013) was recently named the winner of Arcadia's Ruby Irene Poetry Chapbook Contest for "with porcupine." Jacob, currently an undergraduate student at Swarthmore College, is the author of a staggering six other poetry chapbooks, and his poems have appeared in *Sugar House Review*, *Flyway*, *Harpur Palate*, *Cream City Review*, and others.

January 2016: **Amanda Silberling** (Mentee, 2013), now an acclaimed music journalist, photographer, and poet, coordinated an incredibly important and successful panel at the University of Pennsylvania's Kelly Writers House entitled "Shifting the Gaze: Women in Music," featuring Camae Ayewa, Fran Blanche, Diane Foglizzo, Maria Raha, and Cynthia Schemmer.

December 2015: **Brynne Rebele-Henry** (Poetry Mentee: Talin Tahajian, 2015) is sixteen, and her debut hybrid book of poetry *Fleshgraphs* (previously recognized as a finalist for the 2015 Cleveland State University First Book Poetry Competition) will be released from Nightboat Books later this year. Brynne has also published her poetry and fiction in *Prairie Schooner* and *Denver Quarterly*, among others, and writes for the blog of *The Adroit Journal* (where, by the way, she has published both poetry and fiction).

October 2015: **Madeline Kim** (Poetry Mentor: Peter LaBerge, 2014) temporarily hung up her poetry hat to accept the Norman Mailer High School Creative Nonfiction Award at the annual NCTE Ceremony in New York City.

October 2015: Shortly after being recognized as a 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts for Writing (Poetry & Short Story), **Oriana Tang** (Poetry Mentor: Peter LaBerge, 2014) was named one of two 2015 Davidson Fellows for Literature, for her multi-genre project "Writing Tears from the Stars: A Linguistic Revitalization of Human Empathy." Now a freshman at Yale University and prose reader for *The Adroit Journal*, she was honored in Washington, D.C. and received a \$25,000 scholarship.

September 2015: **Yasmin Belkhyr** (Mentee, 2013), founder and editor-in-chief of *Winter Tangerine Review*, has curated electric and necessary spotlight features such as *Imaginary Homelands*, *Hands Up Don't Shoot*, and *Reshaping the Bell Jar* to amplify the voices of minority writers around the world.

& so much more! [Apply](#) to join our exciting community today.

Graduation Matriculation

Each year, *The Adroit Journal* hosts an exciting group of passionate, creatively driven high school students from around the world. Here are the institutions where graduates have ultimately landed:

CLASS OF 2016 (EARLY ACCEPTANCES)

Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Columbia University
Harvard University
Princeton University (4)
University of Chicago (2)
University of Pennsylvania (2)
Yale University (3)

CLASS OF 2015

Barnard College
Brown University
Durham University (UK)
Emory University
Harvard University (2)
Oxford University (UK)
Stanford University
The College of New Jersey
University of Chicago
University of Connecticut
University of Pennsylvania
University of Toronto (CAN)
Yale University

CLASS OF 2014

Columbia University (2)
Cornell University
Princeton University
Stanford University
University of Cambridge (UK) (2)
University of Pennsylvania (2)

Testimonials

"I can honestly say that the *Adroit Journal* summer mentorship program was an invaluable experience. My writing benefitted tremendously from the feedback of my mentor and peers, and I made connections with fellow writers that to this day help me as I take steps in the writing world. I incurred all the benefits, if not more, of an expensive residential writing program. The opportunity to gain honest feedback from talented writers gave me the confidence to take further steps in my writing career."

—**Rebecca Alifimoff**, Indiana (USA), 2014 Mentee

"This mentorship program was truly a remarkable experience. Not only were the mentors and mentees professional and thorough, they were open-minded to my ideas and ideologies, my beliefs and personal predilections. They didn't rewrite my work for me but pushed me towards discovery and revision through their thought-provoking questions about imagery, form, and syntax."

—**Alex Greenberg**, New York (USA), 2015 Mentee

"*The Adroit Journal's* mentorship was incredible! The mentorship really helped me find a steady poetic voice and learn how to intensively edit my work, and I also made lasting friendships with other mentees and mentors. In fact, one of the other mentees, Aidan Forster, and I went on to create an online community for young LGBT+ writers once the mentorship ended. The mentorship helped me find a writing community for the first time. I would strongly recommend this mentorship to anyone who hopes to pursue writing, better their work, or surround themselves with incredible writers. The journal and its network of emerging writers never cease to astound me."

—**Brynne Rebele-Henry**, Virginia (USA), 2015 Mentee

"Besides learning to experiment with the technical elements of poetry, I also learned to find inspiration all around me. It wasn't too hard to find some in the work of my peers and mentors, who constantly amazed me with their passion and skill. ... This summer, I learned that life is imbued with poetry — you just have to see it."

—**Jamie Uy**, Singapore, 2015 Mentee

Mentorship Alumni

The Adroit Journal is proud to present the following list of high school mentorship program alumni. Students enter the program with varying levels of workshop and writing experience, and come from schools of all sorts. In this list, **half of the United States** is represented, as well as the **United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Singapore, and China**. Year of participation is noted in parenthesis.

POETRY

Rebecca Alifimoff ('14)	Erica Lin ('14)
Julia Allen ('13)	Emma Lister ('14)
Yasmin Belkhyr ('13)	Emily Mack ('14)
Nathan Blansett ('15)	Molly McGinnis ('13)
Gabriel Braunstein ('15)	Abigail Minard ('15)
Emily Burns ('13)	Alyssa Mulé ('14)
Adelina Ceretto ('14)	Meghana Mysore ('15)
Carissa Chen ('15)	Jacob Oet ('13)
Maya Eashwaran ('15)	Taylor Petty ('15)
Lindsay Emi ('14)	Amanda Prager ('13)
Sophie Evans ('15)	Christina Qiu ('13)
Flora de Falbe ('13)	Ben Read ('15)
Griffin Blue Fay ('15)	Brynne Rebele-Henry ('15)
Lauren Finkle ('13)	Abigail Schott-Rosenfield ('13)
Aidan Forster ('15)	Elena Sénéchal-Becker ('15)
Andrea Giugni ('15)	Amanda Silberling ('13)
Ava Goga ('15)	Jasmine Simms ('14)
Eden Gordon ('14)	Talin Tahajian ('13)
Erica Guo ('14)	Oriana Tang ('14)
Alex Greenberg ('15)	Caroline Tsai ('15)
Kathryn Hargett ('15)	Jamie Uy ('15)
Caroline Harris ('14)	Lucy Wainger ('13 & '15)
Miles Hewitt ('13)	Erintrude Wrona ('15)
Christina Im ('15)	Carrie Zhang ('15)
Madeline Kim ('14)	Emily Zhang ('15)
Alicia Lai ('13)	Jessica Zhang ('15)
Michal Leibowitz ('15)	Audrey Zhao ('15)

FICTION

Ethan Aronson ('14)
Walker Caplan ('15)
Catherine Cheng ('15)
Maeve Flaherty ('15)
Talia Flores ('15)
Robert Esposito ('14)
Charlotte Goddu ('14)
Anna Kramer ('15)
Jessica Li ('14)
Helene Lovett ('14)
Brianna McNish ('15)
Christina Qiu ('14)
Lucy Silbaugh ('14)
Shannon Sommers ('15)
Jane Song ('15)
Audrey Spensley ('14)
Lily Spiro ('14)
Sarah Tran ('14)
Smriti Verma ('15)
Emily Zhao ('15)

DRAMATIC SCRIPT

Anastasia Hutnick ('15)
Safwan Khatib ('15)

NONFICTION

Jordan Cutler-Tietjen ('15)
Jane Levy ('15)
Eli Winter ('15)

About the Journal

The Adroit Journal was founded in November 2010 by poet Peter LaBerge. At its foundation, the journal has its eyes focused ahead, seeking to showcase what its global staff of emerging writers sees as the future of poetry, prose, and art.

Recently recognized in *Teen Vogue*, *Best of the Net*, *Best New Poets*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Verse Daily*, and NPR, among others, the journal has featured the voices of Dorianne Laux, Alex Dimitrov, Laura Kasischke, Terrance Hayes, Lydia Millet, Ellen Bass, NoViolet Bulawayo, Diane Glancy, Ned Vizzini, and beyond.

[Masthead](#)

[Anthology Presence](#)

The journal is currently published on a quarterly online basis. Funded in large part by the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, the journal sponsors the annual Adroit Prizes for Poetry and Prose to recognize exceptional secondary and undergraduate writers, as well as the annual online *Adroit Journal* Summer Mentorship Program.