

## College of Arts and Letters

# MFA in Creative Writing



The University of Tampa low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program is designed to help poets, fiction writers and creative nonfiction writers advance their command of craft through exposure to literature from a writerly perspective and with supportive critique and mentoring. The two-year, four-semester course of individualized study encourages the rich interplay of participation in an extended literary community, and it seeks to deepen the understanding of writing as an ongoing engagement with discovery and transformation.

Students attend four ten-day working residencies, capped off by a fifth, culminating residency, on UT's historic campus in downtown Tampa, on the banks of the Hillsborough River. Each residency is followed by a five-month one-on-one tutorial with a faculty mentor focused on the student's written work and readings as negotiated in an individual plan of study.

As part of the requirements for the degree, the student completes many drafts and revisions, resulting in a substantial manuscript of original work in the selected genre. Along the way, the student reads and comments on works that have shaped the genre, completes a 25-page critical essay in the third semester and assembles an annotated bibliography that conveys the importance and influence of great writers on their own work. In the fifth, culminating residency, the student teaches a seminar on a pre-arranged topic of interest and gives a public reading of his/her own work. Each semester grade is pass/fail accompanied by a narrative evaluation composed by the student's mentor.

UT has a long tradition of committed, student-centered teaching forged by a mission that emphasizes and promotes lifelong learning. The superb program faculty has authored best-selling and award-winning volumes as well as books optioned for film and adapted for the Broadway stage. They are also experienced mentors dedicated to helping students discover their strengths and produce their best work. The program also benefits from its association with the University's Book Arts Studio, the award-winning journal, *Tampa Review*, and the University of Tampa Press, which sponsors the annual Danahy Fiction Prize and Tampa Review Poetry Prize, and maintains a poetry and prose book publishing program of national repute.

Small workshops with personal attention; a passionate literary community of encouraging mentors and peers; a beautiful campus on one of the loveliest subtropical estuaries — this is home to inspiration that can last a lifetime. As the great novelist George Eliot wrote, "It's never too late to become what you might have been." One might also say, "It's not too late to begin to do all that you can do." When it comes to writing, you can do it — and do it well — here at UT.

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA



### About UT

The University of Tampa is a private, residential university located on approximately 100 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University serves 6,500 students from 50 states and approximately 100 countries. Approximately 70 percent of full-time students live on campus, and more than half of UT students are from Florida.



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SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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### INAUGURAL AND GUEST FACULTY

While a full list of inaugural and guest faculty is not yet available, among those participating in the January 2012 Residency are:

**John Capouya** is the author of *Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad-Boy Wrestler Who Created American Pop Culture* (Harper, 2008) and a professor of journalism and writing at UT. He was formerly an editor at *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Smart-Money* magazine and *New York Newsday*, among other publications. Capouya's previous book was *Real Men Do Yoga* (HCI Books, 2003), and his most recent magazine work has included essays in *Sports Illustrated* and *Travel + Leisure*.

**Erica Dawson** won the 2006 Anthony Hecht Prize for her first collection of poetry, *Big-Eyed Afraid* (Waywiser Press, 2007), which was also named best debut of 2007 by *Contemporary Poetry Review*. Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry* (Scribner) and the *Swallow Anthology of New American Poets* (Ohio University Press) as well as the magazines *Barrow Street*, *Blackbird* and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Dawson teaches writing at UT and is poetry editor of *Tampa Review*. She earned a doctorate at the University of Cincinnati, where she was the Elliston Fellow in Poetry.

**Amy Hill Hearth** gained national prominence with the publication of her first book, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years* (Kodansha America, 1993), which spent 105 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Hearth served as advisor and artistic consultant on the theatrical adaptation of the book, which premiered on Broadway in 1995. Hearth served in the same role in 1999, when the book was adapted for an award-winning television film, and she received a George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcasting. Since writing *Having Our Say*, Hearth has authored or co-authored six more books.

**Richard Mathews** has been a literary editor for more than 40 years, since founding *Florida Quarterly* at the University of Florida in 1967. From 1970-1986 he directed the experimental letterpress studio Konglomerati Press and edited *Konglomerati* magazine. He has edited *Tampa Review* at UT since 1987, where he is also director of the University of Tampa Press and Charles A. Dana Professor of English and Writing. His poems have appeared in dozens of periodicals, including *Apalachee Quarterly*, *Assembling*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, and *Southern Poetry Review*, in chapbooks and anthologies, and in his book-length collection, *Numbery* (Borgo, 1995). His critical books on J.R.R. Tolkien, Anthony Burgess, Brian Aldiss, and William Morris were published in the Milford Series by Borgo Press. His most recent books include *Fantasy: the Liberation of Imagination* (Routledge, 2002) and *Looking Backward to Nowhere: Two Visions of Utopia*, *Edward Bellamy* and *William Morris* (University of Tampa Press, 2010).

**Peter Meinke** has published seven books of poems in the prestigious Pitt Poetry Series, the most recent being *The Contracted World: New & More Selected Poems* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006). His book of short stories, *The Piano Tuner* (University of Georgia Press, 1986) received the Flannery O'Connor Award; his second, *Unheard Music*, was published in 2007 by Jefferson Press, which also reprinted his book about writing, *The Shape of Poetry* (2008). In addition, he has published two children's books, a monograph on the poet Howard Nemerov, and seven poetry chapbooks. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker* and dozens of literary magazines; and he has received numerous awards. He directed the Writing Workshop at Eckerd College, and has been writer-in-residence at Hamilton College, Davidson College, the University of Hawaii and Old Dominion University, and other schools. In 2009 he was appointed the first poet laureate of St. Petersburg, FL.

**Donald Morrill** is the author of four books of nonfiction, *Impetuous Sleeper* (Mid List Press, 2009), *The Untouched Minutes* (University of Nebraska Press, 2004), *Sounding for Cool* (Michigan State University Press, 2002), and *A Stranger's Neighborhood* (Duchesne University Press, 1998), as well as two volumes of poetry, *At the Bottom of the Sky* (Mid-List Press, 1998) and *With Your Back to Half the Day* (Anhinga Press, 2005). His work has appeared in magazines and journals across the country, and in numerous anthologies, garnering several prizes, including, most recently, the Anne Halley Poetry Prize from *The Massachusetts Review*. He has taught at Jilin University, China, and has been a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Lodz, Poland, as well as the Bedell Visiting Writer in the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa, and writer-in-residence at the Poetry Center at Smith College. Currently he serves as associate dean of the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies at UT.

**Enid Shomer** is the author of four books of poetry and two of short fiction, most recently *Tourist Season* (Random House, 2007), which won the 2008 Gold Medal in Fiction in the Florida Book Awards and was also chosen for Barnes & Nobles' "Discover Great New Writers" series. Her novel, *The Twelve Rooms of the Nile*, will be published in 2012 by Simon and Schuster. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry*, *Best New Stories from the South* and many other magazines as well as more than seventy anthologies and textbooks. The recipient of numerous grants and awards, including two fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, Shomer currently edits the poetry series of the University of Arkansas Press. She has taught as a visiting writer at The Ohio State University (as the Thurber House writer-in-residence), at the University of Arkansas and Florida State University, among others.

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