

The Waverley

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OCTOBER 2012

Two books out this Fall by English Alums



Lara Avery '10, reading from her novel at Common Good Books.

Lara Avery : *Anything But Ordinary*

By: Rudy Henriquez '14

On September 11, Lara Avery '10 appeared at Common Good Books for a reading of her first book, *Anything But Ordinary*, which was published by Disney/Hyperion.

Commanding a room at full capacity (including some people standing), Lara Avery delivered two chapters of *Anything But Ordinary* with the grace of a writer well beyond her years. This novel, based on a screenplay written by Charlie Craig, follows seventeen-year-old Bryce Gra-

ham from an Olympic diving hopeful to a comatose twenty-two-year-old struggling with the idea of how her own life has passed her by.

In this young adult novel, problems range from familial to romantic, approaching issues that transcend genre and hit home with readers of any age and background. As Lara revealed in an interview, "*Anything But Ordinary* is the story of a girl (Bryce) dealing with forces beyond her control but resisting the idea that her fate is not in her own hands."

Do not resist your urge to purchase this stellar debut novel and support a Mac Alumnus.

The following are questions and answers compiled from both a Q & A session after Lara's reading on September 11 and a one-on-one interview that took place between Lara and Waverley Editor Rudy Henriquez on September 12, 2012.

RH: What was the experience of your first Reading Event like?

LA: It was amazing. All my friends and family were there.

(cont. on p. 4)

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Anna Waggener : *Grim*

By: Graham Sutherland '13

The crowd seated in the CRSL (Center for Religious and Spiritual Life) was silent as Anna Waggener '12 read an excerpt from her recently published novel, *Grim*. Despite the event taking place at the end of the summer, when most students are gone, it was very well attended. Anna's friends, fellow students,



The crowd in the CSRL at Anna's book launch event.

former professors, and members of Coffee House Press, an independent literary press where Anna now works, were all in attendance.

Professor and English Department Chair Jim Dawes had kind words for Anna. He told the audience that when he first taught her as a freshman, he was

very impressed with her writing and by the time she graduated her writing was better than his.

Her novel, published this past June by Scholastic Press, follows the story of a single mother who gets in a car crash and wakes up in limbo, accompanied by a prince of the dead.

(Cont. on p. 4)

Halloween Party

When : October 31st from 4:30—6:00 pm

Where: Fourth floor old main

Why: Snacks, music, and a costume contest

If you wish to participate in the costume contest, please show up in a literary themed costumes. Talk up the English Department workers, as they'll be judging. A fancy, secret prize will be awarded to the most creative costume!

There will be scary movies available for your viewing pleasure in the library on the second floor. Invite your friends, it's an open event!

Costume Ideas
For those of us who struggle with lit-themed dressings



..there have been books with elephants...



Be a book.



Tons of books on this guy, being a child underneath is optional.



Break out your tights.



Kaija Bergen '11 and Katherine Willingham '11 dressed up as a heroic couplet. Top that.

Journalist from Class of '82 returns to Teach

By: Jamie Lucarelli

American RadioWorks Executive Editor and Host, Stephen Smith '82, is joining James Dawes in teaching the Narrative Journalism class this fall.

"We're creating an excuse for students to do a lot of writing and be thoroughly edited...I'm editing [these papers] as if they're going into a publication," said Smith.

He enjoys being back on the Macalester campus in a teaching capacity. "[Teaching makes you] step out and ask yourself *how* you do what you do in a way that you wouldn't normally. It challenges me."

Smith and Dawes created this course in the hopes of lending practicality to students writing skills. "Academic writing is not necessarily great prepara-

tion for the type of writing you will do in a knowledge economy...[academic writing] is narrowcasting."

Overall, Smith appreciates the opportunity to work with Dawes, "an old friend," and students who are "smart and engaged and challenging."

Good luck to the narrative journalism students and welcome back Smith.



Stephen Smith



James Dawes

Latino Poetry Now!

The Poetry Society of America and Letras Latinas bring *Latino Poetry Now!* to Macalester (an event hosted by the Macalester English Department and The Loft Literary Center). **This reading will held in John B Davis Lecture hall on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM**, featuring the dynamic and provocative work of three Latino poets: Rigoberto González, Xochiquetzal Candelaria, and Lorena Duarte. A discussion about the state of poetry in Latina/o communities will follow. All are welcome to stay for a reception, following the discussion, for a chance to meet and talk to all the poets.

The following are associated with this event, and all Mac students are welcome to attend:

Tuesday's Events: Poets will meet with HECHUA group. **Time:** Lunch **Location:** The Loft Literary Center at Open Book

Wednesday's Events: Poets will meet MAC students in English and Hispanic Studies (All welcome). **Time:** 2:30 PM **Location:** Room TBA
Reading by all three poets. **Time:** 7:00 PM **Location:** JBD

Lorena Duarte is a poet born in El Salvador, raised in Minnesota, and trained at Harvard University. She now lives in Minneapolis. She worked for three years as an editor for the bilingual Latino newspaper *La Prensa de Minnesota* and now works for Twin Cities Public Television. She performs regularly throughout the Twin Cities as a spoken word artist and is a board member of The Loft Literary Center, the nation's largest literary organization. She co-edited and contributed to the book *¿Under What Bandera? Anti-War Ofrendas from Minnesota y Califas*. Duarte also devotes her herself to organizations focusing on issues of community and social justice.



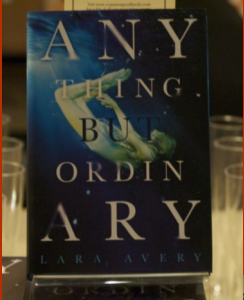
Currently living in San Francisco, **Xochiquetzal Candelaria** is the author of *Empire (Camino del Sol)*. Her work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The New England Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Seneca Review* and other literary journals. Candelaria works as a professor at the City College of San Francisco teaching Poetry, and enjoys a high score on RateMyProfessors.com. She is also a winner of not only the 2006 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, but the Louisiana Literature Prize for Poetry and the Gulf Coast Poetry Prize. Candelaria holds degrees from UC Berkeley and New York University. Her own fellowship list includes both her alma maters, Vermont Studio Center, Bread Loaf Writer's Conference (2005, 2006), Hall Farm Center for the Arts, The National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the LEF Foundation.



Rigoberto González is a writer who braves the genres of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and bilingual children's books, all from a self-identified Chicano perspective. His three books of poetry consist of his most recent work *Black Blossoms*, *So Often the Pitcher Goes to Water until It Breaks*, a National Poetry Series selection, and *Other Fugitives and Other Strangers*, which is a winner of San Francisco State University's The Poetry Center Book Award. This author's other prestigious appointments include a NYFA grant in poetry, the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America, recipient of Guggenheim and NEA fellowships, contributing editor for *Poets & Writers Magazine*, and a place on the executive board of directors of the National Book Critics Circle. In addition, González is a core faculty member at the Vermont College of Fine Arts as well as an associate professor of English at Rutgers-Newark, the State University of New Jersey.



Lara Avery...(cont from p.1)



The event was celebrated with cookies printed with the book cover. They were delicious.

LA (cont): It was such a big part of my life and it was great having them there with me because it was the culmination of three years of my life.

RH: How did Macalester help shape and mold your Authorial voice?

LA: Well, the seminars after the basic classes were great. The Projects in Creative Writing class with Marlon helped. Mostly because he treated us like we already had a voice and he did a good job forcing us to commit to a voice. Also, the liberal arts education and how individualistic it is helped, especially how the students influence each other with their different voices.

RH: What was the experience

of adaptation like?

LA: It was quite a bonus to get a lot of the visuals and get to see the writing for the screen. It was very cool and Alloy (Lara's Publishing Company) told me to look at the screenplay one time and then begin my writing. I like putting emotions into visuals so it was my cup of tea. They encouraged me to make it my own. They were in control of creative rights and all that and we just worked together on the direction of it all.

RH: Where did you see yourself at this point in your life? Did you envision this?

LA: No, I was mostly too busy in imagined worlds to think about that. If I ever do start to think about that I start imagin-

ing dragons or something and get distracted.

RH: What's next?

LA: I don't know what is yet. Probably something to do with teenagers and magic. I am working on a family history focusing on my grandmother, who was a brilliant woman and was one of the first female graduates of Columbia before going catatonic.

We wish Lara good luck with her ongoing endeavors and hope we have a reason to write about her in the near future. Her first novel, Anything But Ordinary, is now available for purchase at your local bookstore.

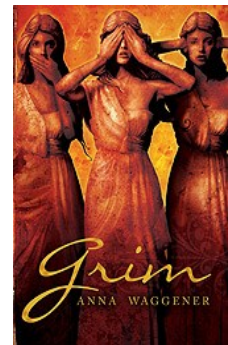
Anna Waggener...(cont. from p.1)

She is separated from her children, desperate to see them again, so the prince brings them into limbo without their knowledge.

Anna wrote this book in high school and won the Scholastic Art and Writing Award, which led to its publication.

The evening was full of praise and pride for what Anna has already accomplished, but it's unlikely that her achievements will stop: she wrote another novel as her honors project her senior year and continues to write. Her job

with Coffee House Press bodes well for a future career in publishing. What Anna has already done has impressed all of us, and doing so just after graduating is no small feat, and it looks like this is just the beginning of a bright future.



You can pick up Anna Waggener's debut YA novel, Grim, at your local bookstore.

Rachel Rostad '15



Interview with a Major

By: Jamie Lucarelli '13

JL: What are you reading?

RR: My emails.

JL: For real?

RR: Okay, Sylvia Plath's *Ariel*.

JL: For real?

RR: For class.

JL: What's a book you wish you hadn't read?

RR: Well, I did start *Fifty Shades of Gray* for lolz...it's disgusting.

JL: Have you ever had a crush on a fictional character?

RR: Yes, there's so many. Mr. Rochester from *Jane Eyre*. He's so brooding...and rich, just kidding.

JL: What's a book everyone should read before they die?

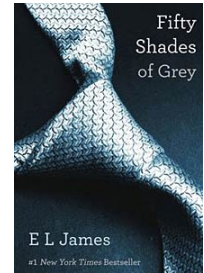
RR: That's tough...*Lolita*. It's really beautiful...the language is so gorgeous.

JL: What would the title of your autobiography be?

RR: That's so much pressure! I don't want to say it out loud. Wait, that should be the title: "I don't want to say this out loud."



VS



Macalester students
put in over 68,000
hours of service in the
2011-2012 academic
school year.

Volunteer with Honors Society!

Interested in getting involved? The English Honors Society is organizing a weekly volunteer opportunity for English majors and any interested students. We will be contacting a local elementary school (Horace Mann) to set up weekly dates for tutoring. You don't need to be able to commit on a weekly basis but we are looking for bodies! If you have any suggestions for future volunteer sites or want to volunteer your time this semester, contact Jamie Lucarelli : jlucarel@macalester.edu

We will do our best to work out transportation for you!

Over 63% percent of the
student body volun-
teered last year, become
one of them!

What's Happening?

Oct 4th: Banned Book Reading

7:00 pm in the Harmon Room, including English faculty and student readers

Oct 10th: Latino Poetry Now! Reading and Reception

7:00—10:00 pm in JBD, free and open to the public

Oct 16th: English Evening at the Theatre Outing to see: *Tales from Hollywood* at the Guthrie

contact Jan Beebe <jbeebe@mac> for (complimentary) ticket availability

Oct 31st: English Department Halloween Party!

4:30—6:00 pm, 4th floor of Old Main

Birthday Babes

October 2 - Wallace Stevens — American Modernist Poet (1879-1955)

October 3 - Thomas Wolfe — American Novelist (1900-1938)

October 8 - R.L. Stine — American Writer, Creator of *Goosebumps* Book Series (1943–)

October 9 - John Lennon — English Singer-Songwriter (1940-1980)

October 14 - E.E. Cummings — American Poet, Essayist, Author, and Playwright (1894-1962)

October 15 - Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche — German Philosopher, Poet, Composer (1844-1900)

October 16 - Oscar Wilde — Irish Writer and Poet (1854-1900)

October 27 - Sylvia Plath — American Poet, Novelist, and Short Story Writer (1932-1963)

October 30 - Ezra Pound — American Poet, Critic, and Early Modernist (1885-1972)

October 31 - John Keats — English Romantic Poet, Influenced later poets and writers (1795-1821)

*John Lennon, passed away
December 8, 1980*



*"A good writer possesses
not only his own spirit
but also the spirit of his
friends."*

— Friedrich Nietzsche

ENGLISH

Newsletter Staff

Senior Editor

Jamie Lucarelli

Associate Editors

Graham Sutherland

Rudy Henriquez



Rudy Henriquez '14

*We're pretty sure he
does look like this
most of the time.*



Graham Sutherland '13

*Watch out, I think he
spent the summer be-
coming a gangster.
Don't let him catch you
stealing the treat night
bananas.*



Jamie Lucarelli '13

*I spent my summer
doing this. Yup.*