

FACULTY



“THE FACULTY HAVE JUST BEEN AMAZINGLY SUPPORTIVE, and supportive in an active way. It’s easy to be passively supportive, you know, like, ‘Yeah, go do what you want.’ But the faculty here have been really willing to go out of their way for me. If I want to meet with somebody, all I have to do is ask, and they’ll meet with me for as long as I need to meet with them. And yeah, I can go to their office, but I’ll see them out socially, too, and I’ll be like, ‘Hey, I have this question about my book list,’ and they’ll give me suggestions. I feel like they actually really care. It would be really easy for that to feel like a bureaucratic chore that they had to do, but I don’t get that impression at all. I get the impression that they are excited to be working with me. Which is really kind of unexpected, actually.”

- KATE

“WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE I was doing very confusing work, and I didn’t necessarily know what it was, and no one else did. But everyone was willing to try. That’s huge. Because if you want to be an experimental poet, you’re going to do experiments. Working with the faculty really helped me understand the limitations of what I was doing, and they also helped me understand the positive aspects, to find the areas that I could continue to cultivate. [In my poetry] I don’t want to alienate, but, you know, to challenge. And [the faculty] helped me realize how to do so by reading and discussing my work. And by turning me on to new writers. They’ve helped me in a lot of ways — with new literature, new poets, new ways of thinking.”

- ANDREW

“I REALLY LIKE THAT WE’VE HAD TWO female Grisham Writers in a row. Man, I love Megan [Abbott, the 2013-14 Grisham Writer in Residence]. She’s on my [thesis] committee. She’s really been encouraging me to write this novel, and she was kind of the inspiration for it in the beginning. She’s just been awesome. Very, very supportive.” - **LIZZIE**

“I THINK THAT HAVING THE GRISHAM WRITER IN RESIDENCE is a really nice aspect of the program. That person is being paid and given a nice place to live, so he or she is really grateful to be here, and doesn’t have a full load of classes to teach; so they’re more available than most teachers, and they’re often eager to help inside and outside of the classroom. You know that fifty percent of your [fiction] workshops are going to be taught by a young person who’s excited to be here, and I think that’s a big deal. I couldn’t take Megan [Abbott]’s workshop class — I was working on my thesis — but she still read my novel, just out of total kindness, and so did Nic Brown [Grisham Writer, 2012-2013], and someone who was a full-time teacher might not be as willing to do that.” - **MCKAY**

“I’VE MET WITH ALL of my workshop professors outside of class, and emailed back and forth about my own work, teaching, and struggles – like, weird writer struggles — and they’ve been really open to that kind of thing. And I think that’s the best thing about the program for me, how accessible the poets [the poetry faculty] have been. And, like, actually accessible. Approachable, like, excited and willing to talk about your work, to talk about what you’re reading, or your teaching. They really do want to engage with you about it, and that’s been great.” - **VIRGINIA**

