

OUTLET EDITORIAL BOARD

Reading Committee

Leah Corkery
Michaela Gray
William Jablonsky
Kevin Koch
Jacob Krapfl
Camellia Mukherjee
James Pollock
Sanjit Pradhananga
Katie Schmidt

Editor

Kevin Koch, Professor of English

Fiction Editor: *William Jablonsky,* Assistant Professor of English **Poetry Editor:** *James Pollock,* Associate Professor of English

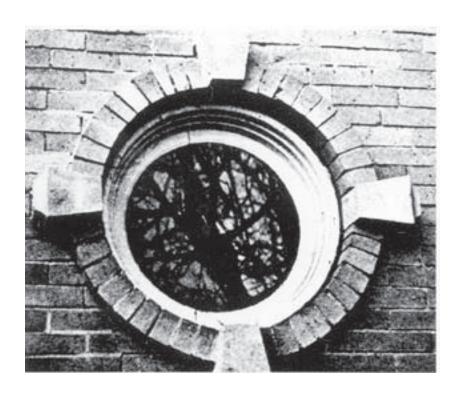
Nonfiction Editor: Kevin Koch, Professor of English

Special thanks to Kari Gossling, Sanjit Pradhananga, Mary Kay Mueller and Helen Kennedy for copy and publication assistance. Michaela Gray and Camellia Mukherjee worked beyond the "Reading Committee" level to further evaluate submissions. Thanks to Kate Bucko, who served as our Duwa Poetry Award judge. And to all our literary contributors – may you continue to pursue the muse!

Outlet cover: "Between Vibes" (acrylic on canvas) by Mara Felton ('09, Integrated Visual Arts).

Outlet interior "window" photograph: Franklin Kirk ('79).

OUTLET





A Note From the Editors

What?! A flip-book?

No doubt by now you've flipped the 2009 issue of *Alpha/Outlet* upside down and backside front a few times already, wondering whether the covers got mixed up, or at least trying to figure which side is the "beginning"!

Yes, the 2009 edition of *Alpha* and *Outlet* (we've jokingly called this issue *Alphlet*!) has been co-published as a single book. We are proud of our Loras students' work in creative and formal writing, and in this way we can bring together the best of the best.

Plus, this co-published issue of *Alpha* and *Outlet* signals our intention to launch a new literary/formal-essay magazine next year co-sponsored by Delta Epsilon Sigma and the English Creative Writing Program, rather than publish two separate works. The new magazine will continue to publish works of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and formal essay. From *Alpha* we'll retain the DES tradition of sending the best work of each genre to the national DES writing contest; from *Outlet* we'll retain the role of creative writing professors investing their expertise in the selection of creative work. DES faculty, DES students and English majors will continue to participate in the selection of works as well.

Students will benefit by having their work represented in a single magazine that boasts the best of Loras' writing.

Both *Outlet* and *Alpha* have a treasured past. *Outlet* published its first edition in 1974, a literary replacement to the earlier *Spokesman* which had ceased publication in 1970. *Alpha* was first published in 1985 as an interdisciplinary All-College Writing magazine. We appreciate and celebrate all who have been associated with our history of literary publications, as editors, participants on selection committees, and—of course—those whose creative and scholarly work has graced the volumes.

We think that our combined magazine, starting in 2010, will continue the tradition of excellent creative and scholarly writing at Loras College.

But with the promise of a new format comes a new need: What shall we call the magazine? Please send your suggestions to either editor listed below before November 1, 2009.

Elizabeth Raschke, Ph.D. Editor, *Alpha* Kevin Koch, Ph.D. Editor, *The Outlet*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fiction	
Theophany	Alison Balaskovits
Step-Grandmother	Leah Corkery
Jimmy D Comes for Dinner	Meghan Hartsell
Tin Man	Aarati Mahat
Kiss Kiss	Meredithe Steinhauer
Poetry Irma M Duwa Award for Poetry	
Hummingbirds	Leah Corkery
Lolita At the Playground	Alison Balaskovits
Teapot Alice	Alison Balaskovits
Life History of the Bird	Robert Beck
Purple Shades	Kathryn Beecher
Albuquerque Next 17 Exits	Kate Bucko
American Idol	Leah Corkery
Desert Island	Leah Corkery
Leaf	Leah Corkery
Dart Frog	Joe Golba
The Call	Joe Golba

Stick Figure	Travis Guy
There Used to be a Great Garden Teeming	Megan Hauber
Death's Spring	Megan Hauber
Beer Bottle	Tyler Loucks
Midnight Storm	Robin Reynolds
Hooker	Kate Schaefer
Like Father, Like Daughter	Brigette Yanes
Morgue—No Unauthorized Personnel	Brigette Yanes
Creative Nonfiction Winter: Simplicity	Kari Gossling
Winter: Simplicity	Michaela Gray
Winter: Simplicity	Michaela Gray
Winter: Simplicity Blissfully Fall, Beautifully Damned Making a Memorable Five Year High School Reunion .	Michaela Gray Meghan HartsellEdward Helmold
Winter: Simplicity Blissfully Fall, Beautifully Damned Making a Memorable Five Year High School Reunion . The Salt of the Earth	Michaela Gray Meghan Hartsell Edward Helmold Laura Janota
Winter: Simplicity Blissfully Fall, Beautifully Damned Making a Memorable Five Year High School Reunion . The Salt of the Earth No Jumping	Michaela GrayMeghan HartsellEdward HelmoldLaura JanotaJacob Krapfl

$\underline{Contributors}$

CONTRIBUTORS

Alison Balaskovits, English: Writing and Literature, '08, Park Ridge, IL; Reverend Robert Beck, Professor of Religious Studies, Loras College, Dubuque, IA; Kathryn Beecher, Psychology and Sociology, '10, Waterloo, Iowa; Kate Bucko, English: Writing, '04, Portland, OR; Leah Corkery, English: Writing and Public Relations, '09, Marion, IA; Joe Golba, Sport Management, '10, Villa Park, IL; Kari Gossling, English: Writing, Literature and Teacher Education, '09, Ossian, Iowa; Michaela Gray, English: Writing and Literature, '11, Bettendorf, IA; Travis Guy, Psychology, '10, Grayslake, IL; Meghan Hartsell, English: Writing and Literature, '10, Hinsdale, IL, Megan Hauber, English: Writing and Literature, '09, Ridgeway, IA; Edward Helmold, English: Writing and Spanish, '10, Chicago, IL; Laura Janota, English: Writing and Literature, '10, Naperville, IL; Jacob Krapfl, English Writing and Teacher Education, '11, New Vienna, Iowa; Tyler Loucks, Sports Management, '10, Geneseo, IL; Aarati Mahat, Mathematics and Chemistry, '10, Kathmandu, Nepal; Camellia Mukherjee, English: Writing & Biology, '12, Kolkota, India; **Robin Reynolds,** English: Writing and Public Relations, '08, Cedar Rapids, IA; Nicolas Roche, English: Writing, '08, River Forest, IL; Kate Schaefer, English Writing, '09, Evanston, IL; Meredithe Steinhauer, English: Writing and Literature, '10, Madison, WI; Brigette Yanes, English: Writing and Literature, '12, Dubuque, IA.