When I think of the word “synergy,” I think of Inprint. By working together, we create a literary life that is so much greater than our individual efforts. I invite you to keep this in mind as you peruse this 2011-2012 Annual Report, which gives a snapshot of the many ways that we are enriching and enlivening the Houston community.

The 2011-2012 Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series was simply amazing, drawing an audience of more than 4,500 and filled with more great moments than one would think possible. Among my favorites:

 Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffrey Eugenides’ lively presentation of his new novel The Marriage Plot at Wortham Center’s Cullen Theater—the biggest event of his 22-city tour;

 The great Canadian writer Margaret Atwood (The Year of the Flood) leading a packed house at the Cullen Theater in singing “Hymn to the Mole,” in honor of Mole Day; and

 The mere presence of the great poet W. S. Merwin, who closed the season at the Alley Theatre with a brilliant reading, demonstrating to all present poetry’s quiet power.

We owe endless thanks for making this singular Series possible to The Brown Foundation—the Series is named for Margarett Root Brown, one of its founding directors—Weatherford International, the National Endowment for the Arts, United Airlines, Houston Public Radio, plus all of our fellow...
season ticket holders. We also are grateful to the professors at the UH Creative Writing Program, who regularly interview many of Inprint’s visiting writers.

Houston’s younger readers had a great year, too. Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People presented some of the nation’s most renowned middle-grade writers in 2011-2012 (including Pseudonymous Bosch—my favorite pen name ever). A child’s life can be changed forever by an encounter with a beloved writer. Our thanks to HEB for its visionary support.

The Inprint Writers Workshops were full every session in 2011-2012—with sessions added to meet demand. These 8-10 week workshops offer some of the best creative writing instruction available anywhere—thanks in large part to the graduate students and alumni of the UH Creative Writing Program who serve as workshop leaders.

UH Creative Writing Program students and alumni also power Inprint’s community writing workshops, serving more than 75 K-12 teachers from the greater Houston area (thanks to the Kinder Foundation), senior citizens in different parts of the city (thanks to Robin Angly and Miles Smith, and the Samuel Foundation), young children at Project Row Houses (thanks to the Harris County Department of Education/Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) and Sterling-Turner Foundation), and staff at Methodist Hospital.

Inprint’s support of the talented and energetic UH Creative Writing Program graduate students makes much of this possible. This essential synergy benefits the community in countless ways. Inprint’s prizes and fellowships—approximately $2.4 million to date—help attract some of the nation’s top emerging writers to Houston, supporting more than 500 students since 1983.

Thank you for fueling all of this vibrant activity. For the importance and the joy of reading and writing, we press on—and look forward to continuing our work, with your invaluable collaboration. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts—together, we’ve proved it. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Matt Henneman
President
A LOOK BACK AT THE 2011-2012 SEASON

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Inprint continues to foster the art of creative writing and has made Houston a national focal point for the literary arts. Readings, writing workshops, and community programs served almost 10,000 people last year.

The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series ranks among the nation’s leading literary showcases, and the 2011-2012 season featured ten of the world’s most celebrated authors, including winners of four Pulitzer Prizes, two Booker Prizes, the National Book Award, the Orange Prize, and numerous other awards and honors. More than 4,500 enthusiastic readers and writers attended the readings, filling Houston’s premier performance venues to hear such literary icons as Margaret Atwood, Jeffrey Eugenides, former U. S. Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin, and Michael Ondaatje, among other acclaimed novelists and poets whose work is shaping the future of great literature. The series received spectacular media coverage. The price to hear and see these phenomenal authors remained a modest $5 for general admission—unchanged since 1980—with free tickets provided to students and seniors. Some of the visiting writers also gave craft talks at the University of Houston and visited with students at other local educational institutions.
FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

“I would come to hear these authors read even if it were held in an abandoned industrial meat locker… and we all had to sit on cracked and broken milk crates.”

“This is the first year I’ve attended, and I was shocked by how much I enjoyed each and every reading! These authors were entertaining, interesting, and inspiring even if you weren’t familiar with their material. I loved it!”

“The Inprint reading series is one of the best ways to stay connected with the written word. It is a Houston treasure.”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEASON:

On October 10, 2011, Booker Prize-winning author of The English Patient, MICHAEL ONDAATJE, read to an audience of 600+ from his new novel The Cat’s Table. The reading was held at the Moores Opera House at the University of Houston and University of Houston Creative Writing Program (UH CWP) faculty member Chitra Divakaruni conducted the on-stage interview of Mr. Ondaatje.

On October 26, 2011, Pulitzer Prize winner JEFFREY EUGENIDES appeared for the Series and read from The Marriage Plot, his highly anticipated third novel, to 900+ fans at Cullen Theater in Wortham Center. An on-stage interview followed with novelist and UH CWP faculty member Alexander Parsons.

On January 23, 2012, Inprint presented Booker Prize winner MARGARET ATWOOD to a full house of 1,100 at Cullen Theater in Wortham Center. Atwood read from a collection of her work followed by a witty and thoughtful on-stage interview conducted by novelist and UH CWP faculty member Robert Boswell.

continued
On March 26, 2012, two dynamic young novelists, Orange Prize winner **TÉA OBREHT** and New York Times bestseller **GARY SHTEYNGART** appeared before an audience of 700+ at Cullen Theater, Wortham Center. Obreht read from her debut novel *The Tiger’s Wife* and Shteyngart from his hilarious book *Super Sad True Love Story*. The evening began with about 100 people gathering for Books & Bellinis: Inprint’s Young Professionals Mixer, hosted by Chris and Divya Brown (left above).

On April 23, 2012, the season closed with a stunning finale featuring former U. S. Poet Laureate and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner **W. S. MERWIN** reading from his work to an audience of 500 at the Alley Theatre. An on-stage interview was conducted by poet and UH CWP faculty member Kevin Prufer as part of this memorable evening.

**Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People** continues to generate excitement about reading and writing among children and families. Voted “Best Reading Series” in 2010 by the Houston Press, Cool Brains! features the country’s most distinguished and popular writers for children and young adults. Cool Brains! readings, free of charge, have been offered since 2007. Each event features the author making a presentation and reading from his/her work, followed by questions from the audience and a book sale and signing where young fans can meet these “rock star” authors. The 2011-2012 Cool Brains! readings were held at the centrally located Johnston Middle School—a great partner for the Series. Cool Brains! is presented in association with the Houston Independent School District Library Services, Houston Public Library, and Harris County Public Library, all providing promotional support for the readings.

Book sales are courtesy of Blue Willow Bookshop.
An Open Book: The Inprint Blog was launched in March 2012 with a brand new look and a much broader scope than its predecessor. An Open Book brings readers and writers the latest stories about Houston’s literary happenings and other book-related news. Visit it online, leave a comment, or give us some story ideas.

Collaborations with other Houston arts, cultural and educational organizations—including readings, literary discussions, workshops, poetry booths, and much more—are conducted throughout the year and bring the literary arts to new and diverse communities.

On October 16, 2011, the popular and ever-mysterious writer PSEUDONYMOUS BOSCH read from his novel You Have to Stop This, the fifth book in the bestselling Secret Series, to an audience of 300 fans anxious for a sighting of the elusive author.

On January 15, 2012, Newbery Medal winner CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS, author of Bud, Not Buddy, read from his new novel The Mighty Miss Malone to an audience of 400+.


Inprint participated in the Houston Indie Book Fest and the Menil Community Arts Festival on April 12, 2012, bringing local authors to read from their works, and providing Inprint Poetry Buskers who wrote poems on demand for attendees.
**Inprint Writers Workshops**, considered Houston’s “Best Place for Aspiring Writers” (*Houston Press*), continue to be in high demand. Some workshops literally fill up within minutes of being offered online, and most have waiting lists, with extra sessions added to keep pace with demand. In all, 18 eight-to-ten week workshops in fiction, poetry, personal essay, memoir, and other genres—led by talented local writers, including many who are students, faculty, and alumni of the UH Creative Writing Program—were conducted in 2011-2012, helping more than 200 Houstonians become better writers.

**WHAT ASPIRING WRITERS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORKSHOPS:**

“The facilitator made us feel at ease the first week. She was very supportive of what we had written but offered concrete suggestions for improvement.”
From a Personal Essay Workshop, Fall 2011

“I will certainly be taking courses here in the future. I am so glad there is an organization like this in Houston.”
From a Fiction Workshop, Spring 2012

“The most informative writing class I have ever taken.”
From a Poetry Workshop, Summer 2012
there you are

up in the air
floating like a toy balloon

above our bed – looking
down – it’s midnight – don’t

you know – you’ve wakened
me – where have you been?

you said the tide was high –
that day – you’ll ride the angry
waves – you’ll soon be back
the waves will carry you –

you said – “just wait for me”
the sun was out – I remember –
only one – or two – unthreatening
clouds intruded – and were gone

feeling just a bit unwelcomed –
come – lay down with me –
tell me all about the waves
tell me where you’ve been

by Sol Hamburg
Participant in the
Inprint Poetry Workshop
Summer 2012

Teachers-As-Writers Workshops,
similar in design to the Inprint
Writers Workshops, continued to
help K-12 classroom teachers enhance
their writing skills. Five tuition-free
8-10 week workshops in fiction and
nonfiction were conducted, as well
as a new manuscript workshop.
The workshops served more than
75 teachers from various school
districts around the city and in turn
impacted thousands of classroom
students in Houston.

FROM PARTICIPATING TEACHERS:

“The instructor is one of the most effective
leaders/facilitators I have had the privilege
to be mentored by in many years… I feel
empowered that I could be a producer (as
well as a consumer) of the written word.”
From a Teachers-As-Writers
Nonfiction Workshop, Fall 2011

“I have explored my own writing habits
and what it takes to be an effective
writer… My passion for writing has
increased and this translates as enthusiasm
for writing when I am with my students.”
From a Teachers-As-Writers
Manuscript Workshop, Spring 2012

“I can’t wait to take what I have learned
here—tips for writing first drafts and
revising, the structure of the workshop
procedure, so much about pacing, tension,
structure of the short stories—and use it.”
From a Teachers-As-Writers
Fiction Workshop, Summer 2012
Not being a lexicographer, I cannot prove my impression, but I think that my youth in Germany exposed and indoctrinated me with more proverbs than I would have acquired in Spanish or English surroundings. Not that they do not exist in every language, but in spite of having lived more years without using German, its sayings still come to my mind more frequently than those of other languages and decades after having left it behind from my conversation. …

From days in high school where we memorized many poems and read many classical dramas, three lines stick in my memory, of which two find frequent application. One is almost a summary of Goethe’s Faust: Wer immer strebend sich bemueht, den koennen wir erloesen—whenever strives to make an effort, him we can redeem. It has some affinity to the Latin verse: Ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas—although the force may be lacking, still the will is to be lauded. 

Or the quote from Schiller’s William Tell: Es kann der Froemmste nicht in Frieden leben, wenn es dem boesen Nachbarn nicht gefaellt—the most god-fearing cannot live in peace if the evil neighbor does not like it. My second quotation from Goethe is: Was du ererbt von deinen Vaetern hast, erwerbe, um es zu besitzen!—what you inherited from your elders, earn it to possess it.

Some sayings that still come to my mind on not so rare occasions, include those peculiar to Berlin, which had a reputation for its own dialect and outspoken expressions. One is that einem geschenkten Gaul sieht man nicht ins Maul—you do not check the mouth of an old horse that you got as a gift (meaning you do not find fault with a gift that you got for nothing). Then there was Mit Geduld und Spuchefoengt man eine Mucke—with patience and spitting you catch a mosquito. After all, auch ein blines Huhnfind’t mal ‘ne Perle—even a blind chicken finds a pearl once in a while. And for every decision da kommt der Moment, wo der Aff ins Wasser springt—there comes a moment when a monkey jumps into the water…

Enough is enough. This collection resuscitates old and not so old memories. What it cannot do is look into the future, as “time marches on.” New expressions arise with googling and emoticons and the new generation gets ahead of me. LOL (Laugh out Loud!)

*Walter Karger passed away in 2012.
Senior Memoir Workshops remain among Inprint’s most beloved programs. In 2011-12, workshops ran from September through May at Finnigan Park Community Center in Houston’s Fifth Ward, Lincoln Park Community Center, and at the Jewish Community Center. Meeting on a weekly basis and led by alumni of the UH Creative Writing Program, these free workshops provided senior citizens with vitally needed stimulating mental activity. Through the weekly writing exercises, precious memories were revived and the seniors were able to preserve their family and community stories for the next generation. Each year the writing that the seniors produce in the workshops is collected into anthologies and a celebratory reading is held to share the work with family, friends, and the community.

Inprint Life Writing Workshops were once again conducted in 2011-2012 at The Methodist Hospital. Led by published local writers and similar in style to other Inprint Writing Workshops, these workshops provide employees from across the hospital system the opportunity to hone their creative writing skills as part of Methodist’s employee wellness program. The writing produced by participants in the workshops was collected into an anthology entitled Crain Garden Review.

MEMENTO MORI
by Luanne Novak
A Participant in the Inprint Life Writing Workshop at The Methodist Hospital

This is not about my grief
Or the emptiness inside me
That pushes me out of bed at 5:00 a.m.
To stare at a blinking cursor

This is not about the memorial mass
In the white chapel with the gold dome
With the meandering priest stumbling
Through both gospel and homily

This is not about the ex-husband
With the balls to come to the wake
And stand awkwardly with her friends
Who stood by her when he dumped her

This is not about the chemo
Causing nausea and neuropathy,
Or procedure after procedure,
Rending scars from sternum to pelvis

This is about her mother
Frantic with exhaustion and worry
Refusing to leave the side
Of her eldest child

This is about her son
Finding within himself
The strength to step up
And be the man she raised

This is about her daughter
Fierce in her love
Singing Dvorak to her mother
Holding an almost pulseless hand

This is about laughter and friendship,
Stories of biting wit, generous faith,
Chronic lateness, great talent and skill,
And dancing in grocery store aisles

This is about joy
Tinged with tears
Like dark chocolate
With a tiny bit of salt
Youth Writing Residency Workshops at Project Row Houses, located in Houston’s Third Ward, provided another year of after-school creative writing workshops and activities for children from the surrounding community. The program was led by Ryler Dustin, Houston poet and UH Creative Writing Program alum. In addition to the in-class writing, the students also participated in other literary-inspiring activities such as taking a field trip to Inprint’s Cool Brains! reading featuring Christopher Paul Curtis in January 2012.

On May 31, 2012, students in the Youth Writing Residency Workshop shared the pieces they wrote throughout the year with family and friends at a celebration held at Project Row Houses.
ODE TO O’s
By Aliyah Jackson
A Participant in Inprint Youth Writing Residency Workshops at Project Row Houses

Oh “O” you feel so drafty in between. But filled with a hallow emptiness.

Poor “O” you have been smashed into this life.

Oh, my “O” you have so many followers the zero, oval, and just about every egg you see.

Oh “O” your poor vibrationless soul discomforts me.

Oh “O” you are mimicked by the dog’s howling at the moon owo owo owo oooo! and the little girls going oh snap.

Oh “O” it’s as if you’re paper thin but yet so smooth. You are empty but yet filled.
After the death of longtime Inprint Board member Marion Barthelme in March 2011, a group of her friends and admirers came together in the fall to raise funds to establish three prizes in her memory. Marion served on the Inprint Board for more than 21 years, was a leading member of the Gulf Coast Board, and was dedicated to many community programs throughout her life. In less than a year, the Friends of Marion Barthelme raised almost $300,000, enough to award three prizes annually for more than 15 years. One hundred percent of the money raised will go towards the prizes, which include:

- **THE INPRINT MARION BARTHELME PRIZE ($10,000)**, a major juried prize for a graduate student at the UH Creative Writing Program, based on literary merit and service to the community;

- **THE INPRINT MARION BARTHELME GULF COAST AWARD ($1,000)**, given to a leading member of the editorial staff of *Gulf Coast* for service to the journal; and

- **THE INPRINT MARION BARTHELME PRIZE IN CREATIVE WRITING AT RICE UNIVERSITY ($5,000)**, a creative writing prize for an undergraduate student at Rice.

The Friends of Marion Barthelme are deeply grateful to the following donors who have made generous contributions to establish the Inprint Marion Barthelme Prizes. The first Inprint Marion Barthelme Prizes are being awarded in Spring 2013.
Kristi Beer
Kathryn and David Berg
Robin and Dick Brooks
Fran Knox Butler
Kathleen and Glenn Cambor
Bettie and Rick Carrell
Bettie Cartwright
Dinah Chetrit and Rich Levy
Franci and Jim Crane
Susie and Sanford Criner
Liz and Steve Crowell
Michelle and Paul Cunningham
Ramona Davis
Terrence Doody
Consuelo Duroc-Danner
Nanette and Jerry Finger
Jeff Fort
Cece and Mack Fowler
Heidi and David Gerger
Lynn Goode and Harrison Williams
Elizabeth Gregory and Patrick Peters
Marc Grossberg
Mary Hallab and Kevin Prufer
Carolyn Roch Henneman
and Matt Henneman
Mary and Wyman Herendeen
Lee Herrick and Andy Wooley
Olive Hershey and A. C. Conrad
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Stephanie and Ed Larsen
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Sasha West
Andrea and Bill White
Joan Wicks
Aline and Collett Wilson
Nina and Michael Zilkha
Inprint Fellowship and Prize Recipients

Inprint was proud to offer the following fellowships to graduate students at the University of Houston Creative Writing Program during 2011-2012. The M. D. Anderson, Brown, Cambor, Elkins, Fondren, Jones, and Zilkha Fellowships are awarded for recruiting purposes and help Inprint and the UH Creative Writing Program to attract the world’s best emerging writers to Houston. The Joan and Stanford Alexander Prize, the Verlaine Prize, the Donald Barthelme Prizes, and the Robert J. Sussman Prize are awarded on the basis of a juried competition. International and progression fellowships are awarded to current students on the basis of need. In 2011-12 Inprint awarded a total of $125,550 in fellowships and prizes. These talented graduate students go on to publish books, win nationally competitive awards, serve as educators, and enrich the cultural life of Houston and other communities nationwide.

M. D. ANDERSON FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP ($5,000)

Layla Benitez-James
Poetry MFA student
BA, Trinity University

BROWN FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS ($5,000)

Claire Anderson
Fiction MFA student
BA, Rice University

Sarah Allie Rowbottom
Nonfiction PhD student
BA, New York University
MFA, California Institute of the Arts

Jennifer Lowe
Poetry PhD student
BA, Mount Holyoke College
MA, University of Cambridge
MFA, Arizona State University

C. GLENN CAMBOR FELLOWSHIPS ($5,000)

Thomas Calder
Fiction MFA student
BA, University of Florida

Patrick James
Poetry MFA student
BM, Manhattan School of Music

Caitlin Maling
Poetry MFA student
BA, University of Melbourne
MPhil, University of Cambridge

Olga Mexina-Bykova
Poetry MFA student
BA, New York University

Tyson Morgan
Fiction MFA student
BA, Macalester College
Bradley Parrigin
Fiction MFA student
BA, University of Michigan
JD and MBA, Wake Forest University

Sara Rolater
Fiction MFA student
BA, University of Michigan

Kellie Smith
Poetry MFA student
BA, Rice University

Yerra Sugarman
Poetry PhD student
BFA, Concordia University
MA, City College of New York
MFA, Columbia University

Daniel Wallace
Fiction PhD student
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J. A. AND ISABEL ELKINS
FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP ($5,000)

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BA, Allegheny College
MFA, Eastern Washington University

FONDREN FOUNDATION
FELLOWSHIP ($5,000)

Michelle Oakes
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BA, University of Central Missouri

MICHAEL AND NINA ZILKHA
FELLOWSHIP ($5,000)

Peter Kimani
Fiction PhD student
BA, University of South Africa
MA, City University London

INPRINT/JOAN AND STANFORD
ALEXANDER PRIZE IN FICTION IN
HONOR OF ANDREA WHITE ($10,000)

Adam Peterson

INPRINT/PAUL VERLAINE PRIZE IN
POETRY ($10,000)

Chuck Carlise

INPRINT/DONALD BARTHELME
PRIZE IN FICTION ($2,500)

Michelle Mariano

INPRINT/DONALD BARTHELME
PRIZE IN NONFICTION ($5,000)

Aja Gabel

INPRINT/DONALD BARTHELME
PRIZES IN POETRY ($2,500)

Karie Buss
Joshua Gottlieb Miller

INPRINT/ROBERT J. SUSSMAN
PRIZE IN FICTION ($2,500)

Whitney Mower

PROGRESSION FELLOWSHIP
($1,000)

Raj Mankad

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS
($1,500)

Peter Kimani
Thea Lim
Caitlin Maling
Sruthi Thekkiam
On April 1, 2012, Inprint Advisory Board Member Bobbi Samuels and her husband Vic hosted the annual Inprint Prize Winners Reading at their home. UH Creative Writing Program students who were recipients of 2012 Inprint juried prizes read excerpts from their work. More than 50 students, faculty, and community members attended. Pictured on left from top to bottom: Inprint/Paul Verlaine Prize winner Chuck Carlise; Inprint Donald Barthelme Fellowship in Fiction winner Michelle Mariano, Inprint/Robert J. Sussman Prize winner Whitney Mower with Kenny Baldwin. Pictured above: Inprint Paul Verlaine Prize winner Chuck Carlise, Inprint/Robert J. Sussman Prize winner Whitney Mower, Inprint/Joan and Stanford Alexander Prize winner Adam Peterson, Inprint/Donald Barthelme Prize in Fiction winner Michelle Mariano, Inprint/Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry winner Joshua Gottlieb Miller, Inprint/Donald Barthelme Prize in Nonfiction winner Aja Gabel, and Inprint/Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry winner Karie Buss.

The First Weeks in Catania

BY CHUCK CARLISE, 2012 INPRINT PAUL VERLAINE PRIZE WINNER

A young father leans to hold his tiny son’s hand on the jagged gray of Piazza Duomo. With his free hand, he tosses breadcrumbs to the lava rocks hoping to entice a pigeon close. The boy (his eyes wide & wildly interested) grins so hard my cheeks throb watching him. He can’t be more than three.

The man speaks very quickly (or so it seems to me) & any hopes I have for eavesdropping fall away. Ci sono, he says, waving his hand forward, & after a flourish of rises and falls, a presto! I can’t pick up enough to make any sense. The boy must hear his father but his glance never reaches up to meet him. Instead

it shoots between three pigeons who’ve noticed the crumbled bread – two brown-backed, just darker & rustier-red than his father’s khakis, & one speckled gray bird just beyond them.

They edge toward the crumbs, but hesitate (they’ve been chased around these stones by creatures this boy’s size before). The man points to the brown-backs, but all I catch is questo – “this one.” The speckled bird has had enough waiting. He ambles forward (beak-lead, piston-like stutter) & plucks a crumb from the boy’s shoe, then scuttles away.

The boy pulls his hand free & throws both arms into the air. His eyes threatening to leap from their sockets, he opens his mouth, pauses, then lets out the whoop of a toddler.

“Aaaaah!” It drowns out his father, & for a moment even the hum of motorini up the street – not a word in any language at all. It’s the first thing I’ve understood clearly all day.
Thank you for the Inprint Donald Barthelme award in poetry. I’m overjoyed to receive this honor. The funds buy me time to write—the greatest gift a writer could ask for.

KARIE BUSS

Support like yours means a great deal to student writers like myself, mostly in knowing that there are other readers and writers out there in Houston who believe in fostering such an inspiring and encouraging community. This is my third year in Houston, and I’m continuously amazed at the abundance of opportunities for writing and the arts here. It’s a pleasure to be a part of such a great city.

ADAM PETERSON

I want to thank you at Inprint for the generous fellowship offered to not only myself, but many of my fellow incoming classmates. Your support and generosity will not go to waste. I intend to make the most of my time while in the Program, to learn as much as my mind can process, to write as much as my fingers will allow.

THOMAS CALDER

All winter girls jumped the falls. In the morning, a student spies a billowed nightgown, some pink flowerbed quivering in the water. Joggers find shoes abandoned beside the path, a professor the girl’s lonely coat. Before that, her toes are the first to know the ice. If she doesn’t feel the cold, the rush, the hint of a sunset, the moon still in the sky—it could be a dream. The last thought is a given: apologies, all unspoken and unnecessary except for the ones she will not be able to give for those who will keep what she leaves behind. Before breaking the water’s horizon, she must overcome the sky’s, the jump, the deep breath, the walking on numb toes beneath haloing street lamps toward the bridge. And somewhere, in her final past, she decided, and nothing in the world she moves through changes her mind.

Kath turns the shower cold, closes her eyes, concentrates on the rivulets of water running through her toes. But it only brings heat to her skin, wakes her up, forces her to remember how little she has in common with the college girls throwing themselves over the campus’s falls. But she knows their terrible gravity—some anchor in their hearts she fears in her own. When Martin traced a word into the back of her silk dress as they danced at Prom, she’d guessed late, but he said it was love. At that moment, she would have followed him over anything.

It has all got too dangerous.

Kath breaks her frozen hair apart on her way through the high school. She takes her place in the interview line behind smart, slutty Ana Martinez who pretends not to notice her, the competition. Ana has cast off her usual short black skirt and tight t-shirt for a low-cut dress. It must be what she wears to church on Sundays, and Kath hates the girl for how she wears her sex.

Each year, one student receives the Albert R. Wiley scholarship, and for the past three years it’s been the valedictorian, a position Kath herself will hold. It’s the only way she’ll be able to afford the college, a full-ride to the university up the hill but no guarantee of coming back down. She imagines not dorm rooms and lecture halls but lonely girls standing barefoot in the night. Martin doesn’t understand why she fears following them and she cannot explain it to him. His family has always gone to the school, and the engineering building bears his grandfather’s name.
THE 2012 INPRINT POETS & WRITERS BALL was a great success thanks to the leadership of Chairs Susie and Sanford Criner, surpassing the goal by raising more than $345,000. The featured speaker, Justin Cronin, bestselling author of The Passage, gave a lively talk about Houston’s influence on his writing life. Before dinner guests enjoyed short salon-style readings by novelist and UH Cullen Foundation Chair in Creative Writing Robert Boswell, PEN/Faulkner finalist ZZ Packer, and Orange Award for New Writers finalist Ann Weisgarber. Literary themed table decorations, a menu designed by Elouise “Ouisie” Jones, and a handmade limited-edition chapbook of the story “Life by Moonlight,” signed by the author, and distributed to Ball attendees, were all part of the elegant and festive evening. Proceeds from the Ball make possible Inprint’s literary performance programs, community writing workshops, fellowships and prizes for graduate students at the UH Creative Writing Program, and much more. We are deeply grateful to our generous underwriters and patrons for their support.
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Inprint is deeply grateful to our many friends, foundations, and other generous supporters who made donations between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. Your contributions—to our Annual Fund, the Inprint Poets & Writers Ball, and our many educational and performance activities—provide vital support for some of the most exciting literary programs in the country. On behalf of the countless readers and writers who benefit from your generosity, we extend a sincere thank you!

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- Programs (77%)
- Fundraising (14%)
- Management (9%)

FY2012 Revenues

- Poets & Writers Ball (35%)
- Foundation Grants (23%)
- Program Earnings (14%)
- Investment Income (9%)
- Annual Fund Drive (8%)
- Government Grants (7%)
- Corporate Underwriting (3%)
- Miscellaneous (1%)

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