

# Humanities & Fine Arts

## College of Our Lady of the Elms

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*Dr. Tom Cerasulo, Professor of English*

My tenure application, written in 2008, began with the following statement: “At the heart of my teaching philosophy is my belief that professors are creators of new knowledge, which they can then share with their students from the source.” A decade later, while I still very much believe in the concept of the scholar/teacher, I suspect what I was describing was the “brain” of my teaching philosophy. I now realize its heart resides elsewhere.

*The New York Times* columnist David Brooks has noted that college has three potential purposes: the commercial (preparing to start a career), the cognitive (learning stuff and learning how to think), and the moral. “Moral,” to Brooks, does not mean learning right from wrong. It means developing the ability to

make autonomous choices — to determine one’s own beliefs, independent of parents, peers, and society. But I believe those beliefs must constantly be tested and examined. This is a lifelong process.

Students often look for “relatability” in the literature they read. They find a character they can identify with or a line that hits home with them, and that is how they evaluate the story or poem or play. It can be a comfort to connect with a character who has gone through the same things you have, and it can be a joy to experience a narrator who perceives things the same way you do. But if relatability is your sole criterion of literary merit, then you are in danger of falling into the echo trap of thinking that only your ideas and values have impor-

tance. You are instilling in yourself the mistaken belief that your corner of the universe is the universe itself.

Despite their reputation for encouraging this type of navel-gazing, courses in the humanities can actually snap us out of such solipsistic reading practices. The brief introductory lectures that begin my class periods often focus on aesthetics and context, but in the discussion sessions that follow I also try to impart to my students a knowledge of — and a sensitivity to — other cultures, beliefs, traditions, and ideas. My goal is to create opportunities for people from different backgrounds to engage with texts in ways that both respond to their own interests and expand those interests by challenging their comfortable ways of relating to the world around them. At their core, my courses seek to offer students practice in empathy — emotional and intellectual — with people unlike themselves.



### WELCOME DR. HARRY DUMAY

Welcome to Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA who became the eleventh president of the college in July 2017. In October the Elms community celebrated Dr. Dumay’s inauguration with a series of activities and events. He is pictured here receiving the presidential mace from Cynthia Lyons, current chair of the Elms College Board of Trustees.



## FACULTY NOTES

Last summer, **Dr. Christopher Bakrigan**, lecturer in music, presented his artist talk and performance, “Teaching the Eye to Hear” at four venues in Michigan, including the Detroit Institute of Arts. Other performance venues this past winter and spring of “Teaching the Eye to Hear” included the “Baby Grand Music Series” at the Hartford Public Library Center for Contemporary Culture in Hartford, Connecticut; the Mason Square Branch Library in Springfield, Massachusetts; Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut; Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts; The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts and Cultural Center in Middletown, Connecticut and The Artist Tree Community Arts Center in Woodstock, Vermont.

This summer Bakrigan will headline performances at the Bing Arts Center in Springfield, Massachusetts and the Northwest Jazz Festival in Lewiston, New York.

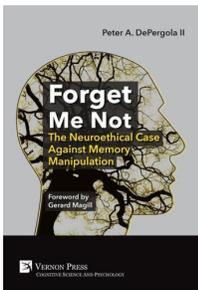
**Dr. Tom Cerasulo**, professor of English, contributed a chapter entitled “Do the Hustle’: Showmanship, Publicity, and the Changing Landscape of Literary Authority,” to the book *American Literature in Transition: the 1970s* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

For Massachusetts Poetry Day last December, **Dan Chelotti**, associate professor of English, taught the workshop, “Punk Poetry” and gave a reading at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. High school and middle school students

from around the state travelled to Amherst for the event.

Chelotti also continues to publish poetry in nationally recognized publications. In May 2017, on the same day his son was born, *Hyperallergic* featured his poem, “New Birds.” He has five new poems forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*.

Assistant professor of medical humanities **Dr. Peter DePergola**’s first book *Forget Me Not: The Neuroethical Case Against Memory Manipulation* was published this March by Vernon Press. In addition, his



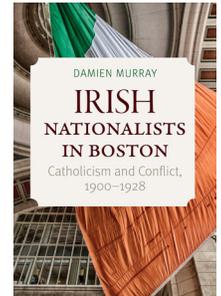
article “The Inclusion of Children in Nontherapeutic Medical Research: A Role for Double Effect Reasoning in the Moral Justification of Pediatric Experimentation” was published in the spring issue of *Pediatric Ethicscope - The Journal of Pediatric Bioethics*.

In April, DePergola was the recipient of the Excellence in Healthcare Ethics Award, which was presented at the 2018 SmartHealth conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Dr. Jason Murphy**, associate professor of philosophy, has had several poems and photographs published over the last year. Four photographs from his series “Goethe-ized” appeared on *FreezeRay*, an online quarterly journal dedicated to the poetry of pop culture. Murphy’s poem “Dancers of Wealth School of Thought” appeared in the print journal *Meat*

*for Tea: The Valley Review* (Volume II, Issue 2)

This spring, The Catholic University of America Press published, *Irish Nationalists in Boston: Catholicism and Conflict, 1900-1928* by **Dr. Damien Murray**, associate professor of history. The book explores how Irish ethnicity in Boston was transformed in the early 20th century in the wake of Ireland’s fight for independence.



This winter, **Dr. Martin Pion**, professor of religious studies, presented a lecture and workshop on “Confucianism and Buddhism in East Asia” for secondary school teachers. The program was hosted by the geography department at Keene State College in New Hampshire and sponsored by The Five College Center for East Asian Studies based in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Pax Christi of Massachusetts hosted their spring retreat here on campus. **Fr. Warren Savage**, lecturer in religious studies, served as the leader of the retreat entitled “Witnessing the Roots of Peace in a World of Discord and Hate.”

**Javier Venturi**, lecturer in modern languages, was nominated as permanent member of the scientific committee and juror for the Montecatini International Short Film Festival (MISFF) in Italy beginning October 2017. Venturi also participated at the International Conference Cinema - Art, Technology, Communication that was

held in Avanca, Portugal in July 2017. He presented the conference paper “Historical Memory, Entertainment, and War Propaganda in Millennial Cinema.”

This spring, Venturi was interviewed by Veronica Garcia, host and producer of the WGBY 57 program “Presencia.”

**2017  
International Conference Cinema-  
Art, Technology, Communication**



*pictured left to right:  
Carmen Méndez (Actress/Spain),  
Bárbara Mateos (Film Director/Spain),  
Javier Venturi, Gloria Gómez-Escalonilla (Spain),  
Alfonso Palazón (Spain),  
Antonio Delgado (Spain).*

## STUDENT NOTES

**Jane Dugan** '20, history and education major with a minor in Irish studies, was among the students chosen by the Association of Colleges of Sisters of St. Joseph to join them on this summer's ACSSJ pilgrimage to Le Puy, France. The Sisters of St. Joseph (SSJ) were



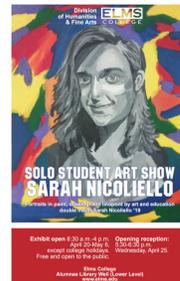
founded in Le Puy over 350 years ago. Today, Le Puy is the home of the Centre International St. Joseph where a consortium of in-

ternational SSJ congregations strive to preserve the past, nurture the present and create a new future for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Dugan, history major **Kayleigh Titor** '20, and **Paul Ferraro** '20, history and education major with a minor in Irish studies, were selected to participate in this year's Sophomore Leadership Program.

**Laura Marshall** MED '19 is a member of the Elms College Marketing Department and has been a student in many of **Dan Chelotti's** creative writing courses. She has had several poems published this year. “I Guess This is a Love Poem” and “Jamais” appeared in the February editions of *Epigraph Magazine* and the online journal *Califrgile*, respectively. Several more pieces are expected to be published shortly.

In addition to participating in both of this year's student art exhibits, art and education major **Sarah Nicoliello** '19 had her own exhibit. Her work was on display in the Alumnae Library in *Solo Student Art Show: Portraits by Sarah Nicoliello*.



Congratulations to English major and Blue House fellow **Sage** '18, whose poem “Horoscope for the Month of Wet Feet” has been named a finalist in the *North American Review's* 2018 James Hearst Poetry Prize. The poem, which appeared in the journal's Spring 2018 issue, is now under consideration by judge Eduardo C. Corral, who will select the winner.

## HONORS CONVOCATION

Division students were recently recognized at Honors Convocation for outstanding work in their major area of study. Honorees included:

**Mary Iellamo** '18  
**Sage** '18

*Sr. Mary Fenton Award  
for excellence in  
the study of the humanities*

**Kevin Corcoran** '19  
*Marie E. Butler Award  
for excellence in the study of history*

**Sage** '18  
*Dorothy Fitzgibbon Award  
for excellence in writing*

**Sr. Cristina Sascau** '21  
*Monsignor O'Neill Award  
for excellence in religious studies*

**Zamayka Davila** '18  
**Julia Skoczylas** '18  
*Sr. Marguerite Pelletier Award  
for excellence in the  
study of a foreign language  
(Spanish)*

**Brianne Boisselle** '18  
*Monsignor Viau Award  
for excellence in the study of  
philosophy*

*Not only do  
[the humanities] broaden  
horizons, but they become  
lifelong tools to help individuals  
interact with the world  
around them.*

**Raeanna (Onie) Tumel** '19  
from her NEH scholarship essay

## INAUGURATION WEEK

In October, the campus community celebrated the arrival of our eleventh college president, Dr. Harry E. Dumay. Division faculty actively participated in the week-long celebration that culminated with the official installation ceremony.

A Meet the Authors event featured current faculty who have published articles, poems, and books. Selected written works were on display and authors were on hand to discuss their publications. Division faculty authors included **Dr. Tom**

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Our National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) committees were pleased to review applications for both student scholarship and faculty grants this year. Students who major in a humanities field (or an inter-departmental major consisting of at least 36 upper level humanities courses) and have a 3.2 overall Quality Point Average in their major courses are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Congratulations to the seven students who were awarded an Elms College NEH scholarship:

**Audrye Alejandro '19**  
*Spanish major*

**Jane Dugan '20**  
*History & Education major*  
*Irish Studies minor*

**Paul Ferraro '20**  
*History & Education major*  
*Irish Studies minor*

**Cerasulo, Dan Chelotti, Sr. Ann Daly, Dr. Jasmine Hall, Dr. Jason Murphy, Dr. Damien Murray, and Javier Venturi.** Music minor **Sarah A. Kaczinski '18** provided background music on an electronic keyboard.

The Chris Bakriges Trio performed in a coffeehouse concert at the Elms Café. The jazz trio is comprised of pianist **Dr. Christopher Bakriges**, bassist Avery Sharpe, and drummer Billy Arnold.

The Academic Showcase, held in the Berchmans Hall Rotunda, was a multi-disciplinary display of the academic talent at Elms College. Students and supervising faculty were on hand to discuss their

research projects and displayed posters. Artwork by **Nanci Costanzo**, associate professor of art, **Art Moses**, lecturer in art, and their students was exhibited. Dr. Tom Cerasulo served as emcee of the performance segment of the event which included poetry readings by Dan Chelotti and Sr. Ann Daly and a moving performance by Dr. Jasmine Hall and Alex Mihalich, members of the drumming group Odaiko New England.



**David Hernandez '20**  
*Spanish & Biology major*

**Jenna Obremski '20**  
*English major*

**Kayleigh Titor '20**  
*History major*  
*Art minor*

**Raeanna (Onie) Tumel '19**  
*English major with*  
*writing concentration*

Congratulations also to the faculty members who received grants from the NEH Faculty Grant Endowment towards a variety of projects:

**Dr. Jason Murphy** - funding towards paper presentations at the Popular Culture and Philosophy Conference in Indianapolis, IN and the North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress in Ontario, Canada.

**Dr. Damien Murray** - funding to present his paper, "Of More Importance than Mr. de Valera or Collins': Martin Glynn and Irish America's Contribution to the Anglo-Irish Treaty Negotiations" at the 2018 International Conference of the American Conference of Irish Studies; and to conduct research in the Eamon de Valera Papers at the University College, Dublin.

**Javier Venturi** - funding to present two papers at the 22nd Avanca 2018 Film Festival – International Meeting of Cinema, TV, Video and Multimedia:

"The Echoes of the Repressed Voices of the Francoist Regime in the movies 'Painless' and 'Marshland' " and

"War or Peace: The Cinematic Dilemma for the Millennial Generation"

## BORGIA GALLERY

Under the curation of **Cecily Hughes**, lecturer in art, the Borgia Gallery featured a variety of artwork at seven exhibitions during the 2017-18 season. Receptions were held for each of the exhibits where the community had the opportunity to meet the artist in person and discuss their artwork. In addition to the rotating exhibitions, the gallery has been a beautiful space for events such as the International Programs Welcome Reception, the Meet Your Advisor Luncheon, the Italian Heritage Month Celebration, poetry readings, alumni receptions, and a variety of Campus Ministry and Student Activities events.

The first exhibition of the new academic year was presented in conjunction with *The Blue House: Peter Richards at the Borgia Gallery*. Artist and poet Peter Richards is the recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant in Poetry, an Iowa Arts Fellowship, an Academy of American Poets Prize, and the John Logan Award. His paintings and sculptures have been shown in galleries throughout New England. In honor of Dr. Harry Dumay's inauguration as Elms' eleventh president, Peters presented one of his paintings to the college.



Our next exhibition, *Ballads*, featured works by Wisconsin-based artist Rafael Francisco Salas. Salas combines landscape, the legacy of Byzantine iconography, portraiture,

architecture and country music into artwork that evokes a strange, rural poetry. His work reflects a personal journey of mixed race identity, conflict, beauty and devotion played out on the vast landscapes of rural Wisconsin.



February's show, *Dirt & Sole*, was a multidisciplinary exhibition exploring the human relationship with and impact upon nature. It included works by several area artists and was guest curated by adjunct instructor **Kerry St. Laurent**. Artwork presented included works by St.



Laurent, Heather Beck, Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Jacqueline Gelfuso Gallo, Julie Gilberg, Alicia Hunsicker, Patricia Jenks, Diane Martonis, Joseph Podlesnik, Meghan Rigali, Anne LaPrade Seuthe, and Wendy Wolf.

Next, the Borgia presented *Not for Medical Use*, an exhibition of artworks encompassing printmaking, drawing, painting and textile processes by artist Zoey Hart. Hart is a multimedia artist, educator, and collaborator living with chronic autoimmunity. She splits her time between her studio in Brooklyn, New York and North Adams (Mass MoCA), Massachusetts. Combining traditional drawing techniques with alternative printmaking, meditation, and fiber-based collage, Hart's work challenges perceptions of imperfection—environmental, social, and or-



ganic — through the collection and manipulation of images and found environmental materials.

Elms student artwork was the centerpiece of the December and April exhibits. The annual *Fall Student Art Show* and *Spring Student Art Show* celebrated works by Elms students currently enrolled in selected studio art and art history courses.



In the gallery's continued commitment to engaging and serving the Chicopee community, the gallery will finish out this academic year by hosting Academy Hill School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Artwork by students of alumnae **Elizabeth Goebel '02**, an art teacher at Academy Hill, will be on display. The Borgia Gallery is excited to provide these students with a professional gallery experience that will showcase their hard, and creative, work.

## FACULTY SERVICE AWARDS

In December, the Annual Christmas Party and Service Awards celebration took place at the Mary Dooley College Center. Recent retirees and those employees reaching a milestone anniversary were honored at the event. Division honorees included **Fr. Warren Savage**, lecturer in religious studies (35 years), **Fr. Mark Stelzer**, associate professor of humanities (30 years) and **Dr. Laura McNeil**, associate professor of history (15 years).

## MULTI-CULTURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Division faculty contributed to several multi-cultural interdisciplinary events throughout the year. Last Fall, **Javier Venturi** coordinated the division's celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month and Italian Heritage Month. The former featured a film screening for Hispanic Heritage Month: *Cesar Chavez* (USA/Mexico, 2014), and a Puerto Rican culinary experience with current students in the Spanish program. In addition, the Borgia Gallery presented the multi-media exhibit *Ballads: Rafael Francisco Salas*.

For Italian Heritage Month, Venturi hosted a reception featuring poetry readings, a brief presentation of the history of Italian Heritage Month, and personal testimonies related to Italian immigration and Italian-American contributions to society. The poetry readings were performed by students **Mary Iellamo** '18, English and psychology major with a theatre minor and **Cassandra Sarno** '19, a health care management and marketing major. Sarno read "Italian Heritage" by RoseAnn V. Shawiak, and Iellamo presented her original work "Vermillion and Other Reds." The event was attended by Dr. Harry Dumay, Elms College president, Domenic Sarno, Springfield, Massachusetts mayor and **Dr. Tom Cerasulo**.

In September, the Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies, under the direction of **Dr. Martin Pion**, partnered with the Mary Dooley Lecture Series and Campus Minis-

try to host a presentation by investigative journalist Eileen Markey. Markey, author of *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura*, discussed her book and its connections to Catholic Social Teaching.

In October, Pion and the Office of Student Affairs teamed up to offer the campus an experience of religious diversity. A group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery spent a week on campus creating a beautiful sand mandala. Although the monks worked in marked silence for hours at a time, hunched over a table meticulously placing each grain of colorful sand, the opening and closing ceremonies were lively events including both dulcet and boisterous chanting and instrumental music. To deepen the understanding of the experience from both an artistic and spiritual perspective, Pion invited Dr. Elena Pakhoutova, curator of Himalayan Arts at the Rubin Museum in New York City, to give a presentation on aspects of Tibetan culture and the sophistication of its deeply religious art.



In keeping with tradition, as part of the closing ceremony the mandala was destroyed. This bittersweet moment served as a reminder to all of both the beauty and fleeting impermanence of life.

As part of Black History Month celebrations in February, **Dan**

**Chelotti** and **Dr. Christopher Bakriges** participated in a program sponsored by Student Activities and Diversity & Inclusion. "I Dream A World: A Celebration of African American Art," included poetry, music, and speeches on the legacy of freedom. Students in Chelotti's current African American Poetry course read poems. Guest performers included Enfield, Connecticut bassist James Daggs; Springfield, Massachusetts drummer Billy Arnold; and vocalist Bishop John Selders, Pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Hartford, Connecticut and Associate College Chaplain at Trinity College.

Also in February, the division partnered with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion to sponsor a screening of the film, *Get Out*. Dr. Tom Cerasulo introduced the film and Diversity & Inclusion Director Alaina DiGiorgio facilitated a post-screening discussion session.

In March, the college hosted a screening of *Raise the Roof* as part of the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival which was held at a variety of venues throughout the area. Dr. Pion moderated a discussion panel following the film. The panel included filmmakers Yari and Cary Wolinsky, Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener, and Scott Hartblay, associate professor of social work.

In April, the Office of Diversity & Inclusion spearheaded the celebrations for Pride Week. In conjunction with the festivities, the division co-sponsored the screening of *Call Me by Your Name*. Javier Venturi presented the film's introduction and background information prior to the screening.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

For the ninth year in a row, we were delighted to host a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA). **Pól Ó Sniadhaigh** is from western Ireland and has previously taught in a variety of settings and locations throughout his native country. The FLTA program is designed for colleges and universities to be able to offer language classes that integrate language and culture into exciting learning opportunities.

Pól teaches Novice and Intermediate Irish for Elms College and the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England. In addition, this past winter Pól organized a lecture by Ben Ó Ceallaigh on Ireland's global

economic crisis and its impact upon the global market and Irish language in today's society.

Pól has been an active participant in a wide variety of campus events such as working on study abroad opportunities, assisting with the Global Fair involving local school children, and organizing cultural activities with the International Club. Pól is also helping to coordinate the Irish Language Day, to be held at Elms College this spring in conjunction with the Irish Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts.



## UNIVERSITY OF KOCHI EXCHANGE - CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS

**Dr. Joyce Hampton**, professor of ESL and Dean for Student Success, and **Marco Garcia**, Director of International Programs, visited Japan with students on a faculty-led exploration of Japanese culture in late Spring 2017. While at the University of Kochi (UOK), President **Minami** held a forum and reception to celebrate the twenty years as exchange partners and Hampton gave an address on the "Impact of International Education through Institutional Partnerships."

Administrators from UOK including **Dr. Takahiro Ioroi**, Vice President, visited the college last Fall to sign a new articulation agreement in honor of the twentieth year of the exchange relationship.

Ten UOK Japanese students and UOK professor **Andrew Oberg** visited campus this past winter. Trip highlights included visiting Baystate Hospital, interacting with children at **Bowe Elementary** school, studying English, cooking Japanese food together and learning about American holidays. Six Elms students plan to participate in the Elms in Japan program in May 2019.



## CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Members of the division were very active throughout the year serving the campus on the following committees:

*Academic Advising*  
**Laura McNeil**

*Assessment*  
**Jasmine Hall**, vice chair

*Curriculum*  
**Tom Cerasulo**  
**Dan Chelotti**

*Faculty & Academic Standards*  
**Nanci Costanzo**

*Faculty Development*  
**Tom Cerasulo**

*Faculty Governance*  
**Peter DePergola**

*Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees*  
**Marty Pion**

*Institutional Review Board*  
**Jason Murphy**  
**Peter DePergola**

*Presidential Committee on Affirmative Action*  
**Javier Venturi**

*Tenure and Promotion*  
**Damien Murray**

Got News? Let us know!  
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## SHAUGHNESS FAMILY FUND FOR THE STUDY OF THE HUMANITIES

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The Blue House Visiting Writers' Series was generously sponsored by the Shaughness Family Fund for the Study of the Humanities. In addition to the writer's series, the fund also underwrote the Blue House Fellowship, a workshop by artist Heather Beck, and a scholarship to the Juniper Writer's Institute.

The writers' series brought powerful contemporary writers to campus to read and visit classrooms. This year, **Dan Chelotti**, along with **Sage '18**, the Blue House Fellow, brought more visiting writers to campus than in any previous year.

Once again, *Voices from Inside* visited campus. This group of dedicated women who were previously incarcerated read their poetry to a large audience in Veritas Auditorium. The readers bravely shared their extremely personal stories about their past and present as well as their hopes for the future.

In March, Khadijah Queen, author of five books of poetry, visited campus and marched in Elms College's first ever "Take Back the Night" event, which The Blue House staff co-organized along with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

The Blue House Writers' Series also welcomed Kaveh Akbar, Peter Richards, Joseph Scapellato, Jade Sylvan,

Ben Hersey, and Sarah Blake to give solo readings throughout the year.

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## THE BLUE HOUSE

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In addition to providing the home office for its eponymous writer's series, you'll find the office for the college's literary magazine *Bloom*, an intimate event space, a dedicated writing space for the entire Elms community and a unique library of books including handmade and small press poetry chapbooks. This year, the house received donations of books from the Poetry Society of America and many other publishers. Please come by and check it out. The house is located down the street from the main campus at 147 Grape Street.

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## COMMON QUESTION - CREATIVE WRITING ANSWER

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Sage, a senior English major with a concentration in writing and a minor in art, is heading off to St. Mary's College in California to work on their Masters in Fine Arts. When asked to share thoughts on their experience at Elms and what new adventures are yet to come, naturally the response from a creative writer was, well, creative. Read on:

*i have an impossible task. i can write my way through it, per usual proverbial axe on my neck, but it won't solve the problem of my disposition to run towards exit signs in movie theaters as soon as the previews point them out. what was it god told the basket-maker: something, something, you can change your present, not your future? i've been running towards a different coast and it's taken me four years to find a ticket. on top of mount greylock the world falls away to nothingness below; i take a piece of stratosphere and tie it in a bow around experiences i will never know. you can never have knowledge like you can never have the hot coal in the center of the furnace. you can glimpse it, out the corner of your eye, a bright spot of hunger chewing holy thoughts into the world. my hunger shows in my ribs, licked*

*clean by boiled water running through this house. we paint our faces blue, and sanctuary lies behind that mask. screw these pages to the turning door outside the parlor of my heart. when love is clear and won--and how i hate to think of love as something we must win--love, O champion of verbs, beset me not with grief. set me up, instead, in your home inside another's heart. what have i learned if not that i is irreducible as well as most elusive. let me dwell in that other i a moment longer. let me sow my love for you as long as soil stretches, tilled and dark. i am complete unto your finished harvest. i am as love and sweet compassion can be hacked into: a memory. let it be fruitful. let the water running down your face be rain.*

