J. Robert Lennon jr124@cornell.edu

#### Academic Statistics

## employment

Fall 2011-present Cornell University, Director of Creative Writing Fall 2010-present Cornell University, Associate Professor, English Fall 2006-Spring 2010 Cornell University, Assistant Professor Spring 2005 Cornell University, Visiting Lecturer, English Fall 2002 University of Montana, Visiting Lecturer, English Spring 2002 Syracuse University, Visiting Lecturer, English Fall 2000-Spring 2001 Wells College, Visiting Lecturer, English Fall 1998-Spring 1999 Cornell University, Lecturer, Writing Lab

### education

1993-1995 University of Montana, MFA in Creative Writing 1988-1992 University of Pennsylvania, BA in English

## Awards, Honors, Professional Activities

#### awards and honors

"Weber's Head" nominated by Salamander for a Pushcart Prize, 2011 Inclusion in Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011, "Weber's Head" Pieces For The Left Hand longlisted for The Story Prize, 2010 Inclusion in Best American Short Stories 2005, "Eight Pieces for the Left Hand"

Inclusion in Prize Stories 2000: The O. Henry Awards, "The Fool's Proxy"

Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award for The Light of Falling Stars, 1998

## professional activities

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2014 Visiting instructor, Syracuse University, Spring 2014

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Hurst Professor of Creative Writing, Washington University, November 2013

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2013

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2012

Invited instructor, Ringling College of Art and Design, January 2012

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2011

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2010

Invited instructor, Colgate Writers' Conference, June 2009

Hobart & William Smith Colleges, outside thesis advisor, April 2009

Invited instructor, Bear River Writers' Conference, 2004

Johns Hopkins Writers' Seminar, workshop, 2004

Invited instructor, Penn Writers' Conference, instructor, U. of Pennsylvania, 1999

## Bibliography of Writings

### books

- See You in Paradise, story collection, Graywolf and Serpent's Tail (UK), November 2014
  - reviews in NY Times Book Review, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, The Millions, elsewhere
  - eleven-city book tour
  - audiobook edition, e-book edition

Four novels (see below) reprinted as ebooks by Dzanc Books, October 2013

- Familiar, novel, Graywolf, October 2012; Serpent's Tail (UK), August 2013
  - reviews in NY Times Book Review, LA Times, Boston Globe, LRB, others
  - eight-city book tour
  - audiobook edition, e-book edition
  - limited hardcover "IndieSpensable" edition of 1,700 printed by Powell's Books
- The Great Zombini, ebook of stories with illustrations by Lou Beach, Red Willow Publishing, 2011
- Castle, novel, Graywolf, 2009
  - reviews in NY Times Book Review, LA Times, starred Publishers' Weeklu
  - six-city book tour, with Pieces for the Left Hand

- audiobook edition, Fall 2010
- e-book edition, Fall 2010

Happyland, novel, serial in Harper's Magazine, 2006; Dzanc Books, 2013

- the first serial novel published in Harper's in fifty years
- optioned for film by Dreamworks

Pieces for the Left Hand, 100 stories, Granta Books (UK), 2005; Graywolf, 2009

- major reviews in London Review of Books, NY Times Book Review
- e-book edition, Fall 2010

Mailman, novel, Norton/Granta (UK), 2003

- reviews in NY Times Book Review, New Yorker, Washington Post Book World
- nine-city book tour, U.S./U.K.
- optioned for film by writer/director Steve Conrad
- translations to German, Spanish, Danish

On The Night Plain, novel, Holt/Granta (UK), 2001; Dzanc Books, 2013

- major review in New York Times, review in Entertainment Weekly
- six-city book tour

The Funnies, novel, Riverhead/Granta (UK), 1999; Dzanc Books, 2013

- reviews in The New Yorker, Salon
- six-city book tour
- optioned for film by New Line Cinema
- German translation

The Light of Falling Stars, novel, Riverhead/Granta (UK), 1997; Dzanc Books, 2013

- reviews in The New Yorker, NY Times Book Review, Time
- six-city book tour
- optioned for film by independent production company
- German translation

### short fiction

"Marriage (Blame)," Matchbook Stories, summer 2015

"Girls" and "Boys," in the anthology chapbook *Girls and Boys*, May 2015

"Husbands," Better Magazine, spring 2015

"Owl," "Eleven," "Marriage (Love)," "Marriage (Sick)", Willow Springs 75, February 2015

"Breadman," The New Yorker, January 2015

Five Stories, The Diagram, January 2015

Five Stories, New Delta Review, November 2014

"Four Stories about Marriage," Louisville Review, November 2014

- "Something You May Not Have Known About Vera," Gigantic Worlds anthology, September 2014
- "A Stormy Evening at the Buck Snort Restaurant," A Public Space, July 2014
- "If You Are Watching This I Am Dead," One Teen Story, April 2013
- "Firewood," Electric Literature's Recommended Reading, April 2013
- "My Usual," Unstuck, December 2012
- "Window," BOMBLOG, September 2012
- "The Bureau," from *Pieces For The Left Hand*, on the radio show "Selected Shorts," 2012
- "Strawberries," Salt Hill, 2012
- "The Death of Animals" and "Jim's Eye," Los Angeles Review 11, February 2012
- "Total Humiliation In 1987," Epoch, Winter 2011
- "Blood In The Corners," Salon, August 2011
- "Cottage On The Hill," Unstuck, 2011 (and later in Electric Literature's Recommended Reading, 2012)
- "Portal," Weird Tales, Spring 2011
- "The Study," The Brooklyn Rail, Spring 2011
- "Hibachi," Electric Literature No. 5, Winter 2011
- "The Impossible Man," Granta, Spring 2010
- "Weber's Head," Salamander Review, Spring 2010 (and later in Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011)
- "Mark," in What's Your Exit?, an anthology of fiction about New Jersey, May 2010
- "Choirboy," a one-sentence story for the "Significant Objects" web project, 2009 (and later in Significant Objects book, 2012)
- "The Authors Speak," *Epoch*, May 2009 (and later in *Fakes* anthology, 2012)
- "The Wraith," Playboy, October 2008
- "The Rememberer," in the anthology Who Can Save Us Now?, July 2008
- "Four Thousand," Green Mountains Review, May 2008
- "Death To Our Friends," in the U.K. anthology *The Empty Page*, 2008 (reprinted in the US as *Noise*, April 2009)
- "After Melissa," commissioned by photographer Lisa Roy Sachs for a catalog of art photographs, 2008
- "Three Stories after Illustrations by Lou Beach," The Paris Review, Fall 2007
- "The Cat Text," LitLab, 2007
- "Zombie Dan," *Playboy*, March 2007, also translated for the Russian and Ukranian editions of *Playboy*

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"The Creek," Five Chapters, 2007
"Cul-De-Sac," Playboy, August 2006*
"The Girl Who Disappeared," Epoch, 2005
"Book of Illusions," LitRag, 2005
"Ecstasy," Granta 87
"See You In Paradise," Playboy, May 2004*
"Farewell, Bounder," Epoch, 2004
Four stories, Denver Quarterly, 2004
Two stories, The Southeast Review, Winter 2003/2004
"Eight Pieces for the Left Hand," Granta 85 (and later in Best
    American Short Stories 2005, and on the radio show "Selected
    Shorts")
"Substitution Chart," Harper's Magazine, December 2003
"Letter From Montana," CutBank 59, Spring 2003
"Darts 'n' Laurels," McSweeney's No. 8
"The Missing Man," Harper's Magazine, August 2003
"The Accursed Items," McSweeney's No. 5 (and later on the radio show
    "This American Life")
Three stories, Fox Cry Review, September 2002
Eight stories, CutBank 57, Spring 2002
"Twenty-Minute Stories," McSweeney's, 2002
"Five Cats and Three Women," Granta 82
"Albert and The Witch," LitRag 12, Spring 2001
"Three Anecdotes," McSweeney's No. 4
"Excerpts from Horace Crutch Oberman Remembered," The Bookpress,
    November 2001
"Idea," McSweeney's No. 3
"Albert's Room," Epoch, 2001
"The Future Journal," Harper's Magazine, December 2000
"No Life," The New Yorker, September 4, 2000
Three stories, 3^{rd} Bed 3, 2000
"Three Measures of Loneliness," Harper's Magazine, February 2000
"Mailman," Tin House, Winter 2000
"Excerpts From The Collected Unpublished Letters To The Editor Of
    Horace Crutch Oberman," LitRag 8, Winter 2000
Five stories, Night Rally, vol. 1, no. 1, 2000
Two stories, LitRag 5, Winter 1999
"The Fool's Proxy," Harper's Magazine, October 1999 (later in O. Henry
    Prize Stories 2000)
"Seven Fictions," Epoch, 1999
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- "Flight," The New Yorker, June 14, 1999
- "The Lucite Handbag," Willow Springs, January 1998
- "Cloud," Fiction vol. 15 no. 2, 1998
- "Twelve Terrors," Fiction vol. 15 no. 1, 1998
- "Lacy Dodgson, Lacy Dodgson," Story, Summer 1998
- "Smoking Is Cool," Missouri Review, 1998
- "Museum of the Arts," American Short Fiction, Summer 1997
- "Hail," Northwest Review 34:1, 1996
- "Party Train," Alaska Quarterly Review, Spring/Summer 1995

## nonfiction

- "The Subprimes," The New York Times Book Review, April 2015
- "The Happiest People in the World," The New York Times Book Review, January 2, 2015
- "In America," The Guardian, December 27, 2014
- "Gamergate," London Review of Books blog, October 17, 2014
- "Always Open to the Possibility of Writing," *The Cramped*, July 14, 2014
- "Too Distracted for Organised Fun," London Review of Books blog, May 10, 2014
- "Little Failure: a Memoir by Gary Shteyngart," *The Guardian*, February 21, 2014
- "The Powell's Playlist," Powell's Books website, October 2, 2013
- "Atwood's latest novel a love letter to literature," The Globe & Mail, August 30, 2013
- "Most contemporary literary fiction is terrible," Salon.com, March 29, 2013
- "I Want to Show You More," The New York Times Book Review, March 2013
- "What Makes a Writer Want to Rock Out?," The New York Times Magazine, February 2013
- Biweekly advice column, Ask a Midlist Writer, Graywolfpress.org, 2013
- "Ageing White Guy Takes Stock of His Life...," London Review of Books, 2013
- "On Helwig Street: A Memoir by Richard Russo," *The Guardian*, November 16, 2012
- Book Notes playlist for Familiar, The Largehearted Boy blog, October 2012
- "How to Write a Bad Review," Salon.com, August 19, 2012
- "Winter Journal by Paul Auster," The Guardian, August 15, 2012
- "Group Writing Advice from J. Robert Lennon," The Outlet blog, April

2012

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"What Time Can You Pick Me Up?," London Review of Books, January 26, 2012
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"Parents Get It," The New York Times Book Review, January 22, 2012

"One Enchanted Evening," London Review of Books, November 17, 2011

"The Unhappiness Project," New York Times Book Review, June 10, 2011

"March Mix," The Outlet blog, March 2011

"Deny and Imply," London Review of Books, December 16, 2010

"Everything Turns to Fire," The New York Times Book Review, October 15, 2010

"Exquisite Amusements: the Post-Handmaid's Tale Career of Margaret Atwood," The Walrus, 2010

"Via 'Bret' via Bret," London Review of Books, June 24, 2010

"The Truth About Writers," Los Angeles Times web edition, June 2009

"Living With Music: Playlist," New York Times web edition, April 2009

"Tastes Like Cancer," London Review of Books, March 8, 2007

"The Jump-Out Boys," London Review of Books, August 3, 2006

"Free VST's for the Computer Unenthusiast," TapeOp, 2006

"Oh No, They're Peeing On Us!," Pennsylvania Gazette, 2005

"Winter," on the radio show Weekend America, 2005

"Malcolm Cecil: Keeper of TONTO," TapeOp, September 2004

"Home Keyboards for the Pro Engineer," TapeOp, 2004

"Squirrel," Identity Theory, January 2004

"Ironies In The Fire," The Bookpress, May 2003

"Adventures of a Seething Virgil," LitRag, 2003

"An Appreication of Stephen Dixon," McSweeney's internet edition, 2002

"A Writer, In Particular," The Bookpress, February 2002

"The Windowless Room," The Bookpress, October 2001

"The Inevitability of Stephen King," The Bookpress, May 2001

"Time As A River," The Bookpress, 2001

"Think Again," The Bookpress, December 2000

"Country Livin': Three Writers Grapple with Heroes and Villains in the American Backwoods," *The Bookpress*, February 2000

### poetry

"Song Of My Cell-Phone," LitRag 10, Fall 2000

"Dogproofing," The Marlboro Review, Summer/Fall 1998

"For The Latest Ascendant Hero," Third Coast, Fall 1997

"Viking Wedding," Hayden's Ferry Review, Spring/Summer 1997

Three poems, The Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review, Winter 1996

# miscellany

- "My First Time" video interview with *The Paris Review*, first in a series of short films about writers' first books, June 2015
- Interview on NPR's Marketplace about my favorite notebook, May 2015
- "Prayer: Friday Night at Hot Slice" in *The Book of Uncommon Prayer* anthology, May 2015
- Opera libretto, "The Wolf by the Ears," music by Dana Wilson, which debuted at Ithaca College in April 2015
- "It's May 2065..." in the Ithaca Voice, March 2015
- Short story "The Rememberer" now in its third season as an adapted television police drama ("Unforgettable") on CBS and now A&E, 2012-2015
- "Crimes and Punishments," Michigan Alumnus, Spring 2011
- Collaboration with Andrew Dinwiddie, providing text for his dance piece "The Accursed Items," The Ontological-Hysteric Theater, New York, fall 2008
- "New Sentences for the Testing of Typewriters," *Literary Imagination*, Fall 2005
- "Over There," Granta 84
- "Upstate New York Map," LitRag 17, Spring 2004
- "Three Fake Critical Essays Denouncing J. Robert Lennon," performed at Elliot Bay Books, Seattle, Fall 2003
- "Substitution Chart," LitRag 16, Fall 2003
- "Nestor College Fight Song," LitRag 15, Spring 2003
- "Norman Groombridge-Moat's Introduction," performed at Three Lives Books, New York, in 2003.
- "Introduction," performed at the Second Wind Reading Series, Missoula, MT, Fall 2002
- "Place Names of Central County," The Bookpress, April 2002
- "Video Game Hints, Tricks, and Cheats,"  ${\it McSweeney's}$  internet edition, 2001
- In addition, previously published commentaries and short stories have appeared on the radio shows "Weekend America," "The Signal," and the BBC's "The Verb."

Readings, Lectures, etc.

Franklin Park Reading series, Brooklyn, NY, July 2015

The Book of Uncommon Prayer reading event, Housing Works Bookstore,

May 2015

Rock and Lit event, AWP conference, Minneapolis, MN, April 2015
Book tour for See You in Paradise: eleven cities, November 2014
Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading and talk, June 2014
Raymond Carver Reading Series, Syracuse University, January 2014
Washington University, reading and talk, November 2013
Second Wind Reading Series, Missoula, MT, October 2013
Panelist, Montana Festival of the Book, October 2013
Keynote Speaker, Conversations & Connections Writers' Conference,
September 2013

Invited performer, Lunch Box Podcast (a literary podcast) at Seattle's Bumbershoot arts festival, August 2013

Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading and talk, June 2013
Associated Writing Programs Conference, reading, March 2013

Kenyon College, reading, February 2013

Fiction Addiction NYC, reading, January 2013

Franklin Park Reading Series, Brooklyn, NY, November 2012

Lawrence, KS Public Library, reading, October 2012

Montana Festival of the Book, panelist, October 2012

Book tour for Familiar: ten cities, fall 2012 - spring 2013

Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading and talk, June 2012

Invited speaker and teacher, Kingston University, London, March 2012

Ringling College of Art and Design, reading and talk, January 2012

Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading, talk, and workshop, June 2011

University of Vermont, reading, April 2011

Housing Works Bookstore Café, NYC, reading, January 2011

Cornell President's Luncheon, reading and talk at the Skortons' house, Fall 2010

Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading and talk, June 2010 Suffolk College, reading, March 2010

"Rhythm and Reading" event for Centennial Reading Series, Cornell,

Colgate University Writers' Conference, reading and talk, June 2009 Book tour for *Castle*: Ithaca, New York City, Brooklyn, Boston, Seattle, Portland, Iowa City, 2009

Hobart & William Smith Colleges, reading, April 2009 NYU/Paris Review panel, reading and talk, June 2008

Richard Cleveland Memorial Reading, Cornell, Fall 2006

Colgate Writers' conference, reading, 2005

Idyllwild Arts high School, Idyllwild, CA, reading, 2005

Toronto International Festival of Authors, Granta panel, 2004

Johns Hopkins Writers' Seminar Lecture Series, 2004

NOCCA/Riverfront school for the arts, reading, 2004

Book tour for *Mailman*: Ithaca, New York City, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dublin, London, 2003

McSweeney's reading event, Brooklyn, NY, 2003

Durham (U.K.) Literature Festival, reading, 2003

Little Gray Book Lecture Series, Brooklyn, NY, reading, 2002

Raymond Carver Reading Series, Syracuse University, 2002

Book tour for *On The Night Plain*: Ithaca, New York, Seattle, Portland, Iowa City, 2001

Alumni Writers Series, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, reading, 1999

Book tour for *The Funnies*: Ithaca, New York, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, 1999

Book tour for *The Light of Falling Stars*: Missoula, Seattle, Portland, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Iowa City, 1997

### Selected Interviews and Reviews

Review of See You in Paradise, The New York Times Book Review, January 16, 2015

Review of See You in Paradise, Boston Globe, December 1, 2014

Review of See You in Paradise, Minneapolis Star Tribune, November 25, 2014

Review of See You in Paradise, Chicago Tribune, November 13, 2014

Profile and SYIP review in The Millions, November 5, 2014

Review of Familiar, London Review of Books, November 21, 2013

Review of Familiar, The Boston Globe, December 11, 2012

Review of Familiar, The New York Times Book Review, December 7, 2012

Review of Familiar, The Los Angeles Times, October 7, 2012

Panel on book reviewing, BBC World Service radio, August 21, 2012

Review of Castle and Pieces For The Left Hand, The New York Times Book Review, May 24, 2009

Review of Castle, The Chicago Tribune, April 2009

Review of Pieces For The Left Hand, The Chicago Tribune, April 2009

Interview on If You're Just Joining Us, podcast, September 2008

Interview on Being There arts and culture blog, 2007
"Mystery Of The Missing Novel," New York Times Book Review, August
2006

"Edited By Somerset Maugham," career retrospective and review by Wyatt Mason, London Review Of Books, 2005

Interview on Book Munch (U.K.), 2003

Review of Mailman, The New York Times Book Review, September 2003

Review of Mailman, Washington Post Book World, September 2003

Interview on Open Book, BBC4, October 2003

"In An Empty Landscape, Empty Lives And Deaths," review of *On The Night Plain*, *The New York Times*, August 2001

Review of On The Night Plain, Entertainment Weekly, October 2001

Review of On The Night Plain, The New York Times, October 2001

Review of The Funnies, Salon, October 2001

Review of The Funnies, The New Yorker, October 2001

Review of The Light of Falling Stars, The New York Times Book Review, March 1998

Review of *The Light of Falling Stars*, *The Chicago Tribune*, September 1997

Review of The Light of Falling Stars, Time, August 1997

# Courses Taught at Cornell

Spring 2015: ENGL 3830, Intermediate Narrative Writing

Fall 2014: ENGL 3820, Intermediate Narrative Writing

Spring 2014: ENGL 3830, Intermediate Narrative Writing

Fall 2013: ENGL 7810, Graduate Fiction Workshop

Fall 2012: ENGL 3820, Narrative Writing

Spring 2012: ENGL 3830, Narrative Writing

Fall 2011: ENGL 7810, Graduate Fiction Workshop

Spring 2011: ENGL 1158 Crime Stories, ENGL 4810 Creative Writing

Fall 2010: ENGL 2800 Creative Writing, ENGL 7850 Reading For Writers

Spring 2010: ENGL 3830 Creative Writing, ENGL 4810 Creative Writing

Fall 2009: ENGL 3731 Reading For Writers (Weird Stories), ENGL 7810 Grad Workshop

Fall 2008: ENGL 2700 The Short Story, ENGL 3820 Narrative Writing Spring 2008: ENGL 383 Narrative Writing, ENGL 785 Reading For Writers Fall 2007: ENGL 280 Creative Writing, ENGL 382 Narrative Writing

Spring 2007: ENGL 481 Creative Writing, ENGL 781 Graduate Workshop

# Committee and Other Service (Selected)

Faculty advisor, The Quill Guild (creative writing club), 2015

Undergraduate Admissions, Spring 2014

Dean's Committee on the Arts, Spring 2014

First-Year Writing Seminar Course Leader, 2013-2014

Dean's Ad Hoc Tenure Committee, 2012

Director of Creative Writing, 2011-present

English Department Administrative Group, 2011-present

Spoke to the undergraduate English Club about short fiction, 2010-2013

Web Site Committee, English Department

Co-edited the department newsletter, 2009; edited it 2010

Served on the Cornell Council for the Arts prize jury for three years, 2009-2011

Education Working Group of the Strategic Planning Commission, 2009

Conducted several dozen twenty-minute audio interviews (and three text interviews) with our visiting writers since 2007-2012, archived at http://writersatcornell.com

Conducted annual mock interviews with outgoing graduate students

Spoke to the undergraduate English Club about career possibilities for majors, 2009-present

Taught a class on The Grapes of Wrath as part of the 2009 Cornell Reading Project, 2009

Served on an interdisciplinary panel presenting various perspectives on The Grapes of Wrath for Cornell's trustees, 2009

Served on the Education Working Group of Cornell's Strategic Planning Group, 2009

Supervised MFA graduate admissions committee in fiction, 2009

Served on panel with writer Salman Rushdie as part of our reading series, 2008

Served as guest lecturer for Cornell Writers' class, as taught by Prof. Molly Hite in 2009 and Prof. Stuart Davis in 2008

Invited to give special reading event for Trustees with Profs. Ernesto Quinonez and Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, 2008

Served as honors advisor for six undergraduates, including Anna Dubenko in Spring 2008, whose paper, "The Story of Ghostwriting: Metafiction in Philip Roth's Zuckerman Series," won the M. H. Abrams Prize for best English Honors paper Served on MFA graduate admissions committee in fiction, 2007-2009 Served as Faculty Advisor for student organization Fanclub Collective, 2007-2010

Served as Faculty Advisor for student magazine The Public Journal, 2007-present

Served as guest speaker at the Graduate Career Committee meeting, 2007 and 2008

Served as Faculty Advisor for student magazine *Laika*, 2007 Served as Faculty Advisor for student magazine *Plug*, 2007

Moderated the Flash Forward panel with Junot Diaz, Julie Schumacher, and Melissa Bank, part of the "Centennial Plus Five" reading series

Invited to read during Alumni Weekend with Profs. Ernesto Quinonez and Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, 2007

Served as guest lecturer for graduate students' independent literature class, 2007; delivered a lecture on sound and speech in ficiton Gave four public readings as part of our reading series, 2005, 2007,

2009, 2015

### Graduate Student Committees

Lena Nguyen, 2016 Kirsten Saracini, 2016 Christine Vines, 2016 Ling Ma, 2015 Cody Klippenstein, 2015 Karen Elterman, 2014 Isabelle Gilbert, 2014 Chris Drangle, 2013 Adam Price, 2013 Lauren Schenkman, 2013 Caroline Zeilenga, 2013 Sam Nam, 2012 John Searcy, 2012 Laurel Lathrop, 2011 Megan Coe, 2011 Rachel Coye, 2011 Noor Hashem, 2010 Venessa Strachan, 2010 James Cecil, 2009

Matthew Grice, 2009 Jon Lewis-Katz, 2009 Sarah Scoles, 2009 Alexi Zentner, 2008 Meredith Talusan, 2008 Téa Bajraktarevic, 2008