Contributor’s Notes

Sketch*
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Shahnaz Agha, from Hoffman Estates, Illinois, is a freshman in Computer Engineering who is switching to Psychology: “I was really glad to have some of my work accepted into this issue of Sketch. It is a real honor. This is dedicated to all the people that have helped me through these extremely hard times. This is dedicated to the true friends I have made throughout my stay here at Iowa State. College is all about change...don’t lose yourself in that. Thank you.”

Kata Alvidrez is a first-year graduate student in English/Creative Writing. She spent 40 years in Los Angeles, 13 years working in technical documentation and 10 years in secondary education. She now writes.

Danelle Baker-Miller received a master’s degree in Rhetoric, Composition and Professional Communication from Iowa State University in December 1997. Raised in Duluth, Minnesota, she attended Grinnell College and received a B.A. in English in 1993. She is currently a program assistant in ISU’s Office of Biotechnology.

Joshua Barbee is a graduate student in Community and Regional Planning. He is from Racine, Wisconsin: “The photo, ‘The River Bandits in John O’Donnell Stadium with Centennial Bridge in the background’ was taken in the summer of 1997. This photo is a memento mori. In 1997, there was an article in the local paper about how Centennial Bridge will only last for a couple of decades, then it will most likely be torn down. The owner of the baseball team doesn’t want to stay in the stadium because it is too old, and is threatening to pull out unless a new stadium is built. So if he pulls out, or if the stadium is rebuilt and Centennial Bridge is torn down, this is an image that will only last on paper (the baseball stadium doesn’t meet the baseball league’s requirement, so it would be hard to keep it as a baseball stadium since no leagues would be allowed to play in it. However, since this team was grandfathered in, they can keep playing in the existing stadium as is)."
Benjamin Blanc is a sophomore in Fine Arts (Mixed Media) from Moline, Illinois: “When I work on my art I am able to escape the ups and downs of daily life. As I begin to shoot a roll of film I become immersed in my own world. It is at this time that my work really begins to unfold. My work is simple and based on geometric forms. I find it important to have just one focal point in most of the pictures I take. By doing this I feel the subjects I am shooting gain an even greater sense of importance. Everyday I try to find a new way of looking at things and my art is a way of helping me to do this.”

Susan L. Booker, originally from Richmond, Virginia, is currently a fourth-year student in the Department of English’s doctoral program in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. When not busy teaching, grading, reading, writing, or walking in prairies, she dreams of owning a bookstore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina: “Visitors welcome. Bring your own flip-flops.”

Joshua E. Borgmann, originally from Shelton, Nebraska, is a graduate student in English/Creative Writing. Currently, he considers himself to be from Ames, Iowa: “I have nothing to say about my poem. It says all it needs to.”

Molly Brown, from Des Moines, Iowa, is a senior in English: “Although I have lived in Iowa for twenty years, I still feel my California roots very strongly and find them surfacing in my writing.”

Eric Dieterle is a second-year M.A. student in English/Creative Writing from Kennewick, Washington. He is a former journalist and corporate communicator, and occasionally writes columns for The Tribune in Ames.

Gordon Ferguson is a junior in English from Davenport, Iowa.

Melanie Dylan Fox is a graduate student in English/Creative Writing who has lived in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and the Arizona’s Sonora Desert. She is currently at work on a collection of creative nonfiction nature-writing essays about living and working in Sequoia National Park, California. In her rare free time she enjoys working with animals, backpacking and other outdoor pursuits, photography, and traveling far away from the Midwest.
Gustavo Herrarte is a graduate student in Anthropology from Guatemala City, Guatemala. He lived in Guatemala during the worst years of the civil war.

Jen Hirt is a first-year graduate student in English/Creative Writing. From Valley City, Ohio, she earned her undergraduate degree from Hiram College. Her short story, “At Fault,” was published last October in The Listening Eye, a literary journal from Kent State University. At ISU, she has been active in The Writers’ Bloc, and is a contributing editor for The Drummer, an independent student newspaper.

Dan Johnson is a senior English major originally from the Quad Cities: “This story was written in an independent study with Christiana Langenberg, a teacher here at ISU.”

Christine Kieltyka is a first-year graduate student in English/Creative Writing. Her home is Story City, Iowa. She is an alumnus of Viterbo College, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Tarisa A.M. Matsumoto is a first-year master’s student in English/Creative Writing from Gardena, California.

Robert Parr is a senior in Art from Ames, Iowa, where he lives with his wife, Fawn, and his son, Sage: “I have been an artist for as long as I can remember. I take every stroke very seriously and I hope that one day I will die with a brush in my hand. I want to make the kind of art that is perfectly disgusting but at the same time so intriguing that you can't look away. I want to express my madness and see how many people will actually confess that they can relate to it.”

Solomon Pech is a fifth-year student in Fine Art and Psychology: “My understanding is that there is no official way to refer to a multipaneled painting unless it is an altar piece. Any altar piece that has more then three panels is called a polyptych. I have heard people use quadyptych before, but I can not find any reference citing it as a word. The book, Gardener’s Art Through The Ages, does make reference to polyptych. It is the tenth edition of this book that I am referring to. I would like to have this piece referred to as a polyptych for a few reasons. I have had this piece referred to as preachy, and more importantly I think that it is
important that people realize that it is in several panels for a purpose. The multiple panels break up the space. I want the painting to be read somewhat like a story from left to right."

Mark Ramos was born in 1970 in Elgin, Illinois. He traveled a lot through the United States over the years, but he eventually graduated from Iowa State this last summer with a degree in Fine Arts: “I really don’t know what you want for a bio so I will sum up the good parts with a zesty mixture of the bad. I have tattoos (all with significant meaning to myself). I love skiing in the mountains and lying on the coastal beaches. I have never been convicted of any felonies. I read more than I should, and I can operate on less than three hours of sleep if need be (but I prefer at least eight hours).”

Viveka Ransom is a senior in Horticulture. She was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and has lived in Pakistan, Egypt, and Greece.

Irwan Salim is a senior in Visual Art from Medan, Indonesia.

Jeff Schulte is a senior in Environmental Science. He is originally from Fargo, North Dakota.

Andy Segedi is a second-year graduate student in English/Creative Writing from Cleveland, Ohio:

“I wrote this piece during my second year at Hiram College, a small, private college in Ohio. Like most of my work, it was originally an assignment—we had to write a “metafiction” piece. All I knew about metafiction was that it was fiction that commented on its own existence. I figured I’d take it a few steps further and create a world where the characters, the setting, and even myself as the author could interact with you, Humble Reader. To these ends, I think I did it.

As for the details of the story itself, the idea for a story about an eraser came in the third grade. During recess, I was always being ha-
rassed by the Student Monitors. These were kids who were given uniforms and carte blanche from the Principal to keep the other kids in line. These Monitors didn’t like me because I’d always be doing things like inciting riots by telling stories with other students, teachers, and parents as characters. So I was always on the Monitors’ List. Anyway, one day my parents bought me this eraser. It was blue and in the shape of a moon. I started imagining that it was magical, and could be used to erase those Student Monitors off the earth. For legal reasons, I can’t say if it worked. But I’ll tell you this: stay on my good side.”

Clara Teijido is a sophomore in Chemical Engineering from Pekin, Illinois: “This poem is for my best friend and our love for words.”

Christianna White is a fourth-year student in the doctoral program in Rhetoric and Professional Communication. Her interest in poetry stems from and informs her love of identifying and preserving the essence while translating information among different domains. In addition to editing the department’s alumni newsletter, English at Iowa State, she plays with language; collects signs, brochures, and advertisements; and savors instructions and warnings, particularly what-to-do-in-case-of-fire information in hotel rooms.