**From:** Renee Long [[rlong16@my.fau.edu](mailto:rlong16@my.fau.edu)]

**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 8:40 AM

**To:** [dburgos2@fau.edu](mailto:dburgos2@fau.edu); Abbe Greenberg; Beau Ewan; Benjamin Parham; Caryn Suhr; Catherine Shelton; Chris Irving; Daniel Marrazza; Dawnmarie Lesaldo; Erin Hobbie; Jake Syersak; Janelle Garcia; Jeanette Moffa; Justin Waldron; Kim Pekala; Kristen Mcnair; Lynn Weisman; Mary Ann Hogan; Mary Long; Melissa Guillote; Michael Gray; Michael Seminerio; Michelle Hasler; Michelle Maher; Mikaela Von Kursell; Mike Shier; Negean Mohi; Nicole Oquendo; Nuala Carr; Patricia Straub; Philip Mazzeo; Radiance Harvey; Rebecca Harthcock; Risa Polansky; Roger Drouin; Sean Godfrey; Thomas McDermott

**Cc:** Ayse Bucak

**Subject:** MFA blog is live!

Hello again MFAers,

I hope everyone's semesters are winding down gently (yeah...who am I kidding?). Anyway, I just wanted to let everyone know that the MFA blog is LIVE! Entries will be posted weekly. Right now, you can read Mary Sheffield's entry "Blogging: The New Miracle Multivitamin for your Writer's Block" and mine, "Floating On." Take a gander! <http://mfaatfau.blogspot.com/>

Please be encouraged to write your own entry or fill out the interview questions! Send entries/interviews to [faumfablog@gmail.com](mailto:faumfablog@gmail.com). The original call for entries and the interview questions are below. Have a wonderful week!!

Best,

Renee

**Description and Instructions**:

Essentially, this is going to be a creative outlet and resource for current MFAs, alumni, and prospective students. For current MFAs, this will be a great opportunity to write and be *read*! It will also give us the chance to read each other’s writing and experiences. This will be an opportunity for you to write about your experiences as a writer, a student, a teacher, a writer at FAU, an MFA at FAU…the list goes on. This will also be a great opportunity for alumni to keep up with what’s going on in the program and to share their own post-graduation experiences and wisdom. And finally, this will be a great resource for prospective MFA students who are interested in an in-depth and personal look into our department.

As far as voice and tone go, we are looking for a personal narrative about your experiences in the program. What would your fellow students want to read about? What would you have liked to have read when you were a prospective student looking at FAU’s MFA program? What sort of things will you want to read about once you graduate?

Some topic ideas: Teaching analytical college writing (1101/2) as a creative writer, learning to carve out a writing schedule as a graduate student, revising and re-exploring your writing after it’s workshopped, surviving the first year as an MFA, getting published as a graduate student, commentary on current MFA events (Coastlines/EGSS readings or events), *Coastlines* events/readings/news, interviews with faculty, taking advantage of the writing community, maintaining “perspective” as a writer… these are just a few jumping off points.

Each entry should be about 400-500 words. You can email potential entry topics/ideas or full entries to [faumfablog@gmail.com](mailto:faumfablog@gmail.com). I will work with you on your prospective topic/entry (making sure it’s appropriate for the blog), edit it for posting, and then send it to Papatya to post on the blog.

**Interview alternative:**

If you would like to be featured on the blog "interview" style, you can just answer a few of these questions about your writing life, and we will have a blog entry that features YOU! The interview questions are below and attached. This is something you can do if you are crunched for time but would really love to contribute to the MFA blog. We are still looking for regular blog entries (500 words or less). All entries/interview answers should be sent to [faumfablog@gmail.com](mailto:faumfablog@gmail.com). Let me know if you have any questions.

Interview style: To feature our MFAs and Alum, we've decided to put together interview questions. Each piece would start with a couple of lines of actual biography.  Please answer these questions with a few full, descriptive sentences. All blog entries should be under 500 words.

Your name:

MFA track: fiction/nonfiction/poetry

Estimated graduation date:

* Where have you lived?

* What are some of your favorite places in Florida?

* What does your writing space look like?

* Are you a pen/pencil, typewriter, or computer writer?

* When did you first realize you have a passion for writing? Describe the experience.

* What’s a book you’ve reread and why?

* What advice do you have for a graduate student in his/her first semester?