

## Garth Greenwell-PV Intern Journal

By Josephine Peloquin

This past week with Winter With The Writers was a treasure to the literary community. Kentucky native Garth Greenwell, alongside poet Luis Muñoz, was generous enough to spend time expanding the knowledge of students, interns, faculty, and the Winter Park community.

The week began a bit early for Greenwell. On Wednesday, rather than mingling only at the reception at night, Garth offered a wonderful course on issues of style for the entire student body. The class consisted of Garth asking about the construction of story and how faithful a writer should remain to the foundations of style that are taught. Greenwell's class took a turn when he began questioning the basics of writing that are taught universally. Instead, he wanted to look at the way other writers found solutions and how they observed a particular problem. Garth also compared the writing of Henry James and Hemingway, two distinguished writers with vastly different language. Greenwell asked the students to consider their own writing, thinking about who is speaking, to whom are they speaking, and for what purpose. His class was meant to have the students reconsider the structure of writing that they were taught, consider their own style, and why they write the way that they do.

After the class concluded, Greenwell spent time in Luis Muñoz's course, and then made his way over to the reception held in the Cornell Fine Arts Museum. The intimate area was restricted to only those that had been invited. The Fine Arts museum filled quickly with interns, faculty, and some sponsors of Winter With the Writers. Greenwell spent the evening mingling with some of the Rollins community and Muñoz, with the possibility of venturing into the new impressionist gallery at Cornell.

Thursday's festival events kicked off with a master class with Garth and the interns in the Sun Trust Auditorium and the Rollins Community. Like the class offered on Wednesday, Garth broke down his own style of writing to critique the students' writing. Garth explained his version of a well-written story, which includes a strong voice with a sense of humanity, place, and conflict. Though a ninety-minute class was not ideal for Greenwell's need to provide constructive criticism to each intern's writing, he managed his time well, spending it on the most important points that needed improvement. The feedback allowed the audience to also analyze their own writing because Greenwell provided constructive answers as to why certain points of a story did not work for him. Once Garth's class wrapped up, Muñoz's class began, and then it was time for the final portion of their visit.

Greenwell and Muñoz's reading cannot be described as anything less than illuminating. They had a joint reading, where they switched off every five-to-seven minutes giving the audience a little glimpse into their intended tone. Garth's reading included reading his English translation of Luis Muñoz's poems out of *From Behind What Landscape*. After Muñoz would finish reading, Garth would read his novel *What Belongs to You*. It was hypnotizing to hear the words roll out off his tongue. Each sentence was carefully and beautifully read; those in the audience were left wanting more.

The night finished with Garth and Luis signing books for the audience and the interns. Their visit together was refreshing, to say the least. Garth's presence alone was enlightening, and for that, Winter With The Writers thanks Garth Greenwell for sharing his time with us this festival season.