

# The Rodkey Reader

To be taken in the morning with a grain of salt

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## Krista awarded “Poet Laureate” by RR; also receives PhD

Krista was overcome by the honor of being named the Poet Laureate of the Rodkey Reader. This comes as long overdue acknowledgment after years of poetical submissions in the form of sonnets, free verse, and haiku. At the Awards Ceremony, Krista read the assembled crowd the “Birthday Flight Song” (see sidebar). It is hard to imagine a more prestigious honor.



Distinguished Indiana University faculty struggled to match this honor by awarding her with a PhD in philosophy in December of 2016. Of course, having dabbled in philosophy since early childhood, majoring in philosophy at Westmont and obtaining a masters in philosophy at Oxford University, this new degree has the feeling of “same old, same old” to those who know Krista’s academic bent.

“The really great thing about having a PhD is that I can now give free reign to my practice of singing songs of self-congratulations to my current students at Valparasio University and at Hope College in Holland next year,” said the new doctor. “I think it will be very glamorous to commute from Valparasio to Holland.”

### Canticle of Cantilevered Wings

From the cedars of Lebanon  
shall I make my spars  
In cloth of finest purple and gold  
shall my wings be cover'd.  
Then shall the young plane leap as the ox  
the pilot and instructor will barrelroll together.  
In the wilderness shall lessons take place  
and planes wheel above the orange groves.  
Thou, Santa Paula, Blessed among the cities  
shall witness it  
For the fulness of the family pocketbook  
hath spoken it.

(Penned on the occasion of the gift of aerobatic flight lessons to the pater familias )

As of press time, it was unclear if Krista was aware that Hope College was located in Holland, Michigan, and not in Europe. — *Adelle*

## Erik’s Career: Criterion Edition

In 2008, the Rodkey Reader, covering Erik’s award-winning short film, predicted that a glorious future in the film industry lay ahead for the young lad. For four years now while he toiled in IT support, these predictions seemed to be without substance. However, the RR prides itself on never being wrong, and therefore the editorial board is not at all surprised that Erik has at last found a career in film.

### Ongoing investigation into mysterious disappearance of 2015 RR

The RR engaged a private investigator to look into the non-appearance of the 2015 edition in hopes of uncovering the nefarious plot that apparently intercepted all copies to loyal readers. The editorial board was shocked, shocked! to hear evidence that no 2015 edition had been distributed: it simply had not been written. “Well, I know I submitted my article on time. I don’t know what they’re doing in the home office” said Krista Rodkey, on condition of anonymity.

The RR readership attempted to bring a class action lawsuit against the paper, but this was dismissed when it was revealed that no subscription fees had been paid. The judge ruled that “emotional distress at not receiving the expected newsletter” was insufficient grounds for legal action. This is considered a signal victory for the small, beleaguered news agency.

Lawyers for the publication note that the RR publication timetable has always been unreliable at best, making it difficult to calculate how late the 2015 issue is. — *Erik*

At Verité Studios, a small Santa Barbara film studio, Erik has found a match for all his disparate skills. His newly minted pilot’s license allows him to fly the drone camera and his sweet driving and navigational skills allow him to shepherd the bulky film van through Los Angeles traffic with a nimbleness that does him credit. Even his habit of

endlessly quoting and analysing films has found an appreciative audience in his boss. On a day-to-day basis, Erik enjoys his work, whether it be filming new footage, fine-tuning an edit or traveling

to exotic locations such as Bakersfield or Minnesota. “At long last, I can request Criterion Collection for Christmas, and claim movie tickets as tax deductions,” he chortled. Others in the household view this career change with suspicion: “It’s just an excuse to watch movies!” Mom lamented. Erik simply responded with a knowing look and a quote from an obscure Jacques Tati film. — *John*



### Breaking Legal News!

U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear arguments in Erik’s lawsuit for unacknowledged creative work in “Canticles” poem.

## North by Northeast

"It was a feeling like none other... most akin to dazed and confused" said Elissa, referring to her emotional state after the successful defense of her dissertation. This monumental moment took place after months of nose-to-the-grindstone research and writing as Elissa worked against the deadline of her new job's start-date in August 2015. A month-long writing retreat at her friend's picturesque farm in the outskirts of Ottawa assisted in the writing process, allowing Elissa to set the cares and busyness of Toronto life aside to focus exclusively on the historical characters of Magda Arnold and Father Gasson. Her academic toils complete, Elissa turned from frantic writing to frantic packing of her apartment, with Krista's assistance. Adelle arrived to complete the packing, and the trio of sisters



took a victory tour of North-Eastern Canada, beginning in Toronto and ending triumphantly in Elissa's new hometown of Moncton. No city was safe from their rampage: from the modern bustling Toronto, to the Victorian Ottawa, to the walled European-esque Quebec City. With the motto that culture is best experienced through the taste buds, the sisters cheerfully sampled Canada's diverse offerings: poutine in Ottawa, crepes & pastries in Quebec City, and cheese curds and Heritage Bakery sandwiches from the rural countryside along the way. The sisters were relieved to find that the culinary masterpiece known as "Beaver Tails" contain no actual beavers. — *Adelle*

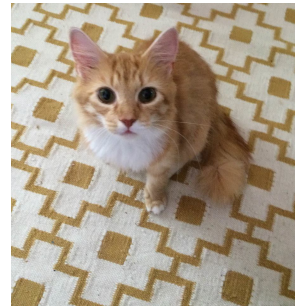


## No School like a New School Elissa Joins Crandall Faculty

Keen observers around campus in the early months of 2016 might have noticed a group of hopeful Crandall students gathered around the Psychology department, waiting with bated breath to see if Dr. Rodkey would emerge and signal the end of winter. Yes, in two short years, Elissa has already become an established feature of the university, with students looking up to her, not merely for meteorological predictions, but also for her academic wisdom.

This wisdom has proved instrumental in guiding her students through the various perils peculiar to each class, into the promised land of knowledge. Her sage guidance has led students past pedagogical fallacies in "Educational Psychology," through phrenology and scientism in "History of Psychology," and into lively discussions over "manspreading" in "Feminist Psychology." Her enthusiasm for all her classes is enjoyed by students, although some questioned what seemed an undue interest in the "Death and Grieving" class.

Despite sharing a home with such an august member of the Crandall Faculty, Elissa's roommate, Galla Placidia did not seem particularly overawed by this fact. Requests for comment were answered in dignified silence by Placidia (Kitty, to her friends), who prefers chewing tops off kitchen spatulas to "chewing the fat" with reporters. — *Erik*



## "Dysfunctional Cooking" Debuts

With the popularity of Iron Chef and America's Test Kitchen, it was only a matter of time (thyme?) until Jeanne and Krista tried their hand at their own TV cooking show, highlighting their unique perspectives on the cooking experience.

Jeanne specializes in developing unique Mexican-Alaskan fusion dishes like "Enchiladas, but without spices," "Chicken Tamales, but without spices," and "Tacos, but without spices," and takes prides in her freedom from written sources. "Oh, I didn't look at the recipe card!" is a frequent refrain. She expects her grand experiment in Alaskan haute cuisine, peanut butter on pilot bread, to take the world by storm. No frou frou caviar or salmon on artisanal crackers for her, by golly! Her anti-veggie activism sees her parading with signs reading "Kale = Fail" and "Moms against Arugula."

Krista's cooking style, as might be expected, stems from a more theoretical basis. After sustained studies of anti-metaphysicians Hume and Carnap, Krista has applied their sus-

picion of essences to radically expand the number of acceptable substitutions in cooking. Since objects should be seen as "bundles of sensible properties" without a unique essence, it follows that culinary substitutions can be made with anything of the same sensible properties. Hence, baking soda and baking powder, indistinguishable to the senses, both being white powdery substances, can be exchanged mutatis mutandis in any recipe.

Krista's analysis of complex cooking terms allows her a further set of substitutions: powder is one form of condensation, ergo, powdered milk can be used in any recipe that calls for condensed milk.

A final cooking insight derives from philosophy of time. As a committed Eternalist or 4-Dimensionalist regarding time, Krista rejects a unique present and a 'specious present,' allowing for increased flexibility in baking time. Dr. Seymour, a philosophical "presentist" who reviewed the cooking show blamed "misguided temporal theory" for the many burned items. — *Adelle*



## Postal worker's expectations crushed: Jeanne mails domestic package

Certain that he would be handling an international package, a postman at the Goleta branch extended an eager hand only to draw it back in disappointment as Jeanne explained that her package was destined for a U.S. address. Jeanne's BookEnds work—which saw her post 4,986 books in 2015 and another 5,556 in 2016—has made her a familiar face at post offices across town and with this celebrity comes expectations. Whether greeted with “Not you again!” consternation or the “Where this time?” of curiosity, Jeanne makes a splash when she enters, often making multiple trips with her auxiliary cart, stacking box towers in the aisle, and scooting them forward as she progresses through the line. Nor can one blame the P.O. worker who complains: Chinese addresses are not easy to enter into the tracking system, the packages, with their tightly-packed books, are no featherweight, and sight

of ominously bulging flat-rate boxes can raise eyebrows. However, there are still workers in whose heart romance is not dead. They smile dreamily and benevolently over the parcels bound shortly to fly like homing pigeons to Micronesia, Kashmir, Morocco, and 40 different countries, to be joyfully received by 103 famil-



ies. This, after all, is the true and sacred duty of the postman, whose calling, like BookEnds', is to send to the world's furthest reaches. Though not to the world's edges,

Jeanne traveled at least as far as Minnesota, Toronto, and Arkansas with young friend Cody in April 2015. The intrepid duo blazed path intended to take in a family reunion in Rochester, to visit Krista before she left Bloomington, and to see Elissa's Toronto digs before she left for Moncton, as well as to visit various friends and relatives in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Cody's driving experience was enlarged by the chance to drive in various extreme situations. From off-roading in a jeep in Arizona to battling traffic in downtown Chicago, Cody commanded the wheel with a steadiness that impressed his passengers. Welcomed home with great rejoicing, Jeanne was impressed to find that the “dream-team,” AKA Adelle and Dad, had successfully manned the BookEnds operation in her absence, managing even to send off the backlog of packages that she had left stacked in hall on her departure. — Krista

## Ave Adellcus

Imperial historians today announced another great victory in Caesar Adellcus' war on clutter. The barbaric wilderness of the garage has once again been subdued in open battle. Triumphant processions, featuring the spoils of war hoisted aloft in banker's boxes, will begin upon the return of Adellcus and her victorious army, winding throughout the ancestral halls to dumpsters out back, amidst the wails of the vanquished clutterholicum.

Western Garagattica has become known throughout the empire as a province in decline in the decades since the famous Second Campaign brought the stiff-necked province back under Roman rule. Reports of descent into chaos and barbarian ways caused outrage in the Senate, and there arose a public outcry to restore order from many in the empire. Much speculation surrounded the delay in decisive action, but it is now clear that the timing of the offensive was no accident, as sources familiar with the topic reveal that Adellcus was consulting with her oracles for the auspicious time for action. It was only when the soothsayers cried doom for clutter at home and abroad that the full might of the empire was mobilised. Beware The Ides of April, indeed!

When pressed for a statement about what tactics she employed, Adellcus responded “Veni, vidi, vici.”

Caesar Adellcus is also known for her sponsorship of the arts. Along with personally teaching aulos and keyboard-lyre lessons, she continues to perform. Highlights from the 2015-2016 season include two performances at the Santa Barbara Music Club and the PASF Competition performed in a way that was suitably magisterial.

Adellcus was also responsible for the highly original “Accompaniment April” program: piano students brought guest musicians to their lessons to hone accompanying skills. The co-occurrence in the month of April of the Garagattican campaign with *Accompaniment April* left some members of



## IT Conference Smashing Success

CCCU members had no idea what a treat they were in for when they registered for the annual Conference, hosted in 2015 at Westmont and run by none other than renowned technology guru John Rodkey. John put his masterful (not to say obsessive) organizational skills to the task, organizing what attendees hailed as the best conference to date. A Santa Barbara location already gave the meeting an edge, but John maximized this advantage by coordinating fresh Californian food, outings to the beach, and a city tour in an amphibious bus. Escaping the thankless drudgery of the IT trenches, these brothers-in-arms, like soldiers on leave, pretended to live a glamorous lifestyle, if only for a weekend. Even the educational aspect of the conference tied into the surfing theme, as conference-goers explored “Catching the Wave of Innovation”. Sessions included “Merging Oceans”, and “Catching the Same Wave: A Case Study in Promoting a Shared Vision of Innovation,” though unfortunately “Notes from the Undertow: Reappraising General Education Amidst Technological Wipeout” was (ironically) cancelled.

Despite the conference's success, it is unlikely that John will contemplate a post-retirement career as event coordinator. — Adelle

the Senate whispering about conspiracy to increase the musical emperor's power. Caesar retorted that the Senators and staff were bass to think of such a turn, that they were always looking for treble in the wrong places, and these were reasonable measures. — Erik