

EDITORIAL

Sheila Williams

BEHIND THE SCENES

This month's editorial will introduce you to some of the people who make *Asimov's* a monthly reality. The editor of a science fiction magazine has a very public face. I'm the one who attends the conventions, meets with authors, and writes the editorials. It would be easy to assume that I'm the only one working on *Asimov's*. Of course, that is far, far from the truth. Unfortunately, there isn't enough room to mention the numerous people who work tirelessly in the production, fulfillment, marketing, and most of the other departments to deliver our print and e-editions into your hands. Instead, I'll focus on three of the people who work on the art and editorial aspects of the magazine.

The longest serving member of this team is our production artist—Cindy Tiberi. Cindy joined our company in December 2009. She received her bachelor's degree from Paier College of Art, and has been working in the field of graphic design since 1994. Cindy is primarily responsible for the art that can be found on the interior pages of the Dell fiction magazines. She also does layout work for *Dell Horoscope*. Cindy works with the artists who do illustrations for stories that appear in *Analog* and our two mystery magazines, *Alfred Hitchcock* and *Ellery Queen*. She particularly enjoys assigning art because she's an avid reader. To her, it's a definite advantage that she "gets to read the stories that come through here." She also prepares the art for the typesetting department. At *Asimov's*, Cindy is responsible for the art that accompanies the poetry. Once they are delivered to her, she selects the art that will be incorporated into each poem's layout. After her work is approved by our art director, Victoria Green, Cindy adds color to the illustrations for our e-reader books.

Cindy became much more familiar with science fiction after she started working on the magazines. She'd always liked TV shows like the *X-Files* and scary movies. "I watched my first scary movie when I was twelve—*Nightmare on Elm Street*." In her spare time, Cindy loves drawing, painting, crafts, and listening to music. She watches TV, "but not on a continuous basis, because I'd rather read. I go to the movies once in awhile, but I never turn down a horror movie. I love to learn something new everyday. I'm always researching different things. I also like to travel. If I could, I would be a world traveler."

It's a lot of fun to work with Cindy. Alas, we have to do most of this virtually since our editorial office is in New York City and Cindy works out of our Connecticut office. While we communicate constantly via email, we only get to see each other in person a couple of times a year. It's always a treat to visit with her in the summer at the annual company picnic and in December at our holiday party.

The newest member of our team is our editorial assistant Deanna McLafferty. Deanna has only just celebrated her third anniversary with Dell Magazines. She tells us she was first exposed to science fiction by her mom, who was a huge fan of old episodes of *The Twilight*



Photo by Cindy Tiberi

Cindy Tiberi

Zone. Deanna also has distinct memories of her dad reading *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to her when she was much too young to appreciate it.

Growing up, Deanna loved stories by L. Frank Baum and Roald Dahl and became obsessed with the Harry Potter series as a teen. She's also a huge Lord of the Rings fan and has "read *The Hobbit* more times than any other book I own." Additional favorite authors include Ray Bradbury, Guy Gavriel Kay, Ursula K. Le Guin, and H.G. Wells.

At Lehigh University, she majored in journalism and communications. Before coming to Dell Magazines, Deanna worked as a food server, an intern at a book publisher, and as a reporter for several local New Jersey newspapers. She puts her background in writing and grammar studies to work in her position as an assistant for all of Dell's departments, which includes our puzzle magazines, as well as Dell Horoscope, and the two mystery magazines.

Approximately one-fourth of Deanna's time is spent on *Analog* and *Asimov's*. Some of her tasks include formatting and entering corrections into manuscripts, proofing columns, indexing the year's stories and keeping track of the Readers Award ballots, sending issues to authors and reviewers, processing rejections, filing, and responding to reader queries. Despite working on so many magazines, Deanna calmly and competently meets all her deadlines. She cheerfully accomplishes prodigious amounts of work on a daily basis.

Finally, I'd like to introduce you to Emily Hockaday, the assistant editor of *Asimov's* and *Analog*. Emily has been working at these magazines in some capacity for five years. She's held her current position for three and a half years. Emily says she's been a fan of science fiction since "finding Ray Bradbury's *R is for Rocket* at my elementary school library (and fantasy before that, thanks to Ursula K. Le Guin's *Catwings*). Besides Bradbury and Le Guin, some of my favorite SF/Fantasy authors include Octavia Butler, Connie Willis, Margaret Atwood, Robert Shekley, Nick Wolven, Mikhail Bulgakov, and Ann Leckie."

In addition to science fiction, Emily is a big comic fan. Joss Whedon, Mike Carey, Brian K. Vaughan, Neil Gaiman, Gail Simone, and Marjorie Liu are among her favorite writers. She also enjoys "the Marvel TV and movie universe (especially *Jessica Jones* and *Agent Carter*—finally some female protagonists!) and the DC TV universe." I caught a bit of her enthusiasm last year and decided to return to New York's Comic-Con for the first time since the conventions' earliest days.

Emily received a BA in theatre with minors in Fine Art and English from Hofstra University. She went straight from there to New York University for her MFA in Creative Writing with a focus on poetry. Emily has worked at a variety of jobs—adjunct instructor at NYU and Globe Institute of Technology; a slew of service industry positions including waitressing, bartending, hosting karaoke, and barista; and theatre critic for *Show Business Magazine*.

She hasn't left poetry behind, however. "I'm grateful to have studied with really



Photo by Katie Cahill

Deanna McLafferty



Photo by R.J. Carey

Emily Hockaday

amazing poets during my time at NYU including Sharon Olds (former New York poet laureate), Charles Simic (former national poet laureate), Matthew Rohrer, Kamiko Hahn, Yusef Komunyakaa (our current New York state poet), and Matthew Zapruder. Since graduating from NYU, I've continued to publish and attend writing workshops regularly. I spent a year co-curating an NYC-based reading series and have served as a judge for NEA's Poetry Out Loud."

Emily is the author of *Ophelia: A Botanist's Guide* (Zoo Cake Press, 2015), *What We Love & Will Not Give Up* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014), and *Starting a Life* (Finishing Line Press, 2012). Her poetry has appeared on NPR in the hit show *Radio Lab*, with the innovative series *Emotive Fruition*, and in a number of journals including the *North American Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, Amazon's *Day One*, and the *West Wind Review*.

A background of work-shopping and editing peer writing certainly helped Emily prepare for her editorial role with

Asimov's. She is responsible for copyediting, author correspondence, managing deadlines, and ensuring that all the art, advertising, and editorial material coheres into an actual issue. We drew upon her focus on poetry when we expanded her duties and made her the assistant poetry editor for both SF magazines a year ago. Although I make the final decision about most of our poetry purchases, Emily won't submit her own poems to the magazine because of conflict of interest concerns.