

LAUNCHING PAD, SPRINGBOARD, INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION,

A HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH EDUCATION GIVES STUDENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO FIND AND

FUEL THEIR PASSIONS. THAT'S NOT MARKETING

HYPE OR EMPTY RHETORIC. OUR YOUNG ALUMS ARE

SOMETHING SPECIAL: DEFINED ONLY BY THE DIVERSITY OF THEIR SUCCESSES. AS THESE STORIES PROVE, A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE FROM HWS HAS A WAY OF TURNING

DAYDREAMS INTO DAY JOBS.

Dream

STORIES

Alexis E. Santí '99 :

A Writer's Life/Story

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It sounds like the sketch for a fictional character: he's a writer who speaks three languages (and can say "thank you" in a dozen others), he's the son of Cuban immigrants, he has traveled the world, been a Peace Corps volunteer and the recipient of a prestigious Romanian literary grant and admits he has a weakness for a particular Michael Crichton memoir. But this is no fictional character. Instead, this is **Alexis E. Santí '99** - writer, editor and fiction guru.

Santí is the founder and editor of *Our Stories* (www.ourstories.us) an innovative literary journal based in Ithaca, N.Y. "What's unique about *Our Stories* is that we give feedback to every submission as well as the submissions to our annual contest. That's unheard of for a literary journal," explains Santí. Unusual as it may be, it's catching on. "In our first year, *Our Stories* has already received a growing amount of submissions and positive feedback, even from writers whose work we've rejected."

When he's not busy improving others' writing, and interviewing world-renowned novelists, Santí spends time with his own work. "I just handed off copies of a recently finished novel, *The Song of the Midnight Rider*, to friends of mine and sent it to agents," says Santí. "Now, I'm mainly working on short stories and poetry as well as teaching local creative writing workshops."

What inspired this writer's atypical, feedback-based approach to publications? "For everything I learned as an M.F.A. student at George Mason, no one taught me the business side of my art; there were no courses on how to get your work published or how to get an agent," says Santí.

"Fortunately, my time at HWS as a pre-law-turned-English major taught me not to just stare at problems but to find out what I could do about them. Hobart taught me that," he emphasizes. "This life lesson is what inspired me to do my part for burgeoning writers by starting *Our Stories* and encouraging more of a dialogue to take place between the business side and the artists. Of which I'm happy to have a foot in both worlds." - Joshua Unikel '07

