

## EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy in English, 2010**

Texas A&M University

Dissertation: *The Last Educations: Genre, Place, and the American University*

Director: Paul Christensen, PhD

- **Master of Arts in English, 2005**

Texas A&M University

Thesis: *Either Side of a Line*

- **Bachelor of Arts in History, 2003**

University of Texas at Austin

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## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

- *Professed: A Novel*. Slough Press, 2013
- *That Demon Life: A Novel*. Gival Press, 2009  
Winner, Gival Press Novel Award, 2008  
Finalist, Writers' League of Texas Book Award, 2010
- *Long Time Ago Good: Sunset Dreams from Austin and Beyond*. Slough Press, 2009.  
Finalist, Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction, Texas Institute of Letters, 2010

### SHORT FICTION/PERIODICAL

- "July 17, 1978," *Still: The Journal*, Spring 2015
- "Worthless," *Kestrel*, Spring 2014
- "Guernsey Cows," *Kestrel*, Fall 2013
- "Baby Never Grew," *Chagrin River Review*, Spring 2013
- "Beset by Demons," *Workers Write*, Spring 2013
- "Something Else Finally Happened," *Amarillo Bay*, Spring 2013
- "The Road Back to Destruction Bay," *Callaloo*, Spring 2009
- "Wildlife Rehabilitation," *Southwestern American Literature*, Fall 2008
- "Cindy's Shirt," *Concho River Review*, Fall 2008
- "The Quiet Sport," *Broken Bridge Review*, Fall 2008
- "Rocket," *Blood Lotus Journal*, Fall 2006
- "The Point," *Cerebration*, Fall 2006
- "Five Things," *Callaloo*, Winter 2006
- "Reliction," *Short Story*, Spring 2006

- "Deep Eddy," *R-KV-R-Y*, September 2005
- "The Speed of Sound," *Iron Horse Literary Review*, Summer 2005
- "Wintertime Driving," *Fresh Boiled Peanuts*, Summer 2005
- "Corky the Squirrel," *Prism Quarterly*, Summer 2005
- "Charlie's Bridge," *The Dead Mule*, June 2005
- "Bad Guts," *Mosaic Mind*, December 2004
- "Tails," *Amarillo Bay*, April 2004
- "Homesteaders," *Fiction Warehouse*, January 2004
- "Screech Owls," *Antietam Review*, Summer 1999
- "The Encounter," *FAN Magazine*, Spring 1996
- "How Much for All This?," *Dominion Review*, Fall 1995
- "The Carcass," *Gray's Sporting Journal*, March 1995
- "The Endless Inning," *Aethlon*, Winter 1995
- "The Big Purple Cloud," *Kinesis*, August 1994
- "It May Be a Day, It May Be Forever," *Culture Concrete*, Winter 1991

## POETRY/PERIODICAL

- "Firewood," *Brazos Gumbo*, Summer 2005
- "Certain Nights," *Brazos Gumbo*, Summer 2005
- "Dakota," *2River View*, January 2005
- "Cock Pheasant," *2River View*, January 2005
- "Personal Ad," *Brazos Gumbo*, Summer 2004

## SHORT FICTION/ANTHOLOGY

- "Riff-Raff." *The Beatest State in the Union: the Texas Beat Anthology*. Christopher Carmona and Chuck Taylor, eds. Beaumont: Lamar University Press, forthcoming.
- "The Water Works," *Workers Write! Stories from the Cubicle*. Dallas: Blue Cubicle Press, 2005

## POETRY/ANTHOLOGY

- "Bear Heads," *Janie's Garden*. Austin: Alamo Bay Press, 2014.
- "I Bought Hemingway's Ghost a Drink," *The Weight of Addition: An Anthology of Texas Poetry*. Houston: Mutabilis Press, 2007

## CREATIVE NON-FICTION/PERIODICAL

- "12 Things I Remember About Home," *You Are Here: The Journal of Creative Geography*, Summer 2008
- "Around & Around," *Big Tex[t]*, Summer 2005

## ACADEMIC/PERIODICAL

- "Nature vs. Technology: An Exercise," *AWP Pedagogy Papers*, Association of Writers and Writing Programs, 2005

## ACADEMIC/ANTHOLOGY

- Co-Authored with Dr. Abigail Bowers: "Survival of the Sweetest: Little Miss Bosox and the Saving Grace of Baseball in Stephen King's *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*," *Stephen*

*King: Into the Millennium*. Patrick McAleer and Michael Perry, eds. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishers, 2014.

## REVIEW/PERIODICAL

- "Review of *Mojo Hand: The Life and Music of Lightnin' Hopkins*, by Timothy J. O'Brien and David Ensminger." *Texas Music History*, Fall 2013.
  - "Review of *The Ballad of Trenchmouth Taggart*, by M. Glenn Taylor." *Southwestern American Literature*, Fall 2009
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## TEACHING

## POSITIONS HELD

- Assistant Professor of English, Pittsburg State University, 2012-2015
- Artist-in-Residence, Federal Prison Camp Bryan, 2010-2012
- Lecturer, Texas A&M University, 2010-2012
- Graduate Assistant Teacher, Texas A&M University, 2005-2010

## CLASSES TAUGHT

- **"General Literature" (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 113) – Seven sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for classes of up to 30 students from a variety of disciplines. Students in this course study genre, context, and audience, focusing on the ability to analyze texts and to apply ideas or concepts to texts.
- **"Introduction to Creative Writing (Multi-Genre)" (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 250) – Ten sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for class of up to 15 students covering the basics of writing fiction and poetry. Discussions of texts, along with short response papers, developed critical as well as creative thinking. The importance of revision is emphasized through multiple drafts of graded assignments, large and small-group workshops, and the production of a final portfolio.
- **"Craft of Fiction" (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 347) – Three sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for class of up to 15 English majors. Students in this advanced creative writing class focus on the structural elements of fiction, emphasizing the contemporary applications of traditional and experimental techniques.
- **"Fiction Writing" (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 351) – Two sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for class of up to 15 English majors. Students in this intermediate creative writing class focus on writing short fiction, producing works that aim for unity and depth. Students give oral presentations, write book reports, and participate in both traditional and non-traditional workshops.
- **"Advanced Fiction Writing" (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 451) – One section:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for class of up to 15 English majors. Students in this advanced creative writing class write four short stories, aiming to produce works that are

both strongly structured and driven by character. Students give oral presentations, write book reports, and participate in both traditional and non-traditional workshops.

- **“Research and Thesis” (Pittsburg State University, ENGL 890) - Four sections:** Supervised the writing and revision of creative theses by Masters of Arts students. Students work toward completion of a collection of short fiction. I have served as a committee member on three other thesis committees.
- **“Elements of Creative Writing (Multi-Genre)” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 235) - Sixteen sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for classes of up to 25 students covering the basics of creative writing. Students wrote 2-3 short stories, 10-15 poems, and a short memoir. Discussions of texts, along with short response papers, developed critical as well as creative thinking. The importance of revision is emphasized through multiple drafts of graded assignments, small-group workshops, and the production of a final portfolio.
- **“Rhetoric and Composition” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 104) - Eleven sections:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for diverse classes of up to 25 students from a variety of disciplines. Students wrote assignments covering four major areas: rhetorical analysis, historical narrative, developing an argument, and writing about literature. This class emphasized writing as a skill portable to different areas and situations and worked toward developing critical thinking.
- **“Introduction to Literature” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 203) - One section:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for classes of up to 25 students from a variety of disciplines. Students in this writing-intensive course studied genre, context, and audience, focusing on the development of critical thinking skills, as well as the ability to analyze texts and to apply ideas or concepts to texts.
- **“American Literature: Colonial to American Renaissance” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 227) - One section:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for class of 38 students from a variety of disciplines. This class focused on the literature of the Puritans, revolutionaries, literary nationalists, and romanticists, and discussed the artist in a frontier society, the development of a national literature, and the larger cultural contexts of early America.
- **“Writers’ Workshop: Prose” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 347) - One section:** Designed syllabus and chose texts for a class of up to 20 English majors. Students in this advanced creative writing class focus on the production of extended narratives of fiction or memoir, producing works that aim for depth and complexity of characterizations and plot. Students give oral presentations, write book reports, and participate in both large and small-group workshops.
- **“Directed Study: Advanced Prose Writing” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 485) - One section:** Through the close reading and multiple drafts of short stories and memoirs, this independent study section stressed the connections of critical and creative thinking, highlighting the relationship of the author and the text.

- **“Directed Study: Advanced Poetry Writing” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 485) - One section:** This independent study section focused on the writing of formal poems and on the critical analysis of poetry.
  - **“Directed Study: Introductory Screenwriting” (Texas A&M University, ENGL 485) - One section:** This independent study section concentrated on the basics of film writing by viewing films and reading screenplays, and focusing on the dialogue and the development of plot.
  - **“Introduction to Creative Writing” (Federal Prison Camp, Bryan) - Eight sections:** A National Endowment for the Arts position as Artist-in-Residence at FPC Bryan, teaching basic creative writing to diverse classes of up to 15 students. By writing short stories, poetry, and memoir, students develop creative and reflective thinking, and elevate their overall literacy.
  - **“Introduction to Memoir” (Federal Prison Camp, Bryan) - Six sections:** A course teaching basic life writing to a diverse class of up to 13 students. By reflecting and writing about their lives, students gain an increased awareness of the connections between their lives and society.
  - **“Reading for Writers/Drama” (Federal Prison Camp, Bryan) - Two sections:** Teaching the elements of drama and playwriting to a diverse class of up to 8 students. Students read classic and contemporary drama, write short dramatic monologues, and give in-class performances of their work.
  - **“Personal Essay” (Federal Prison Camp, Bryan) - Two sections:** The course covered the elements of writing personal essays and creative non-fiction for diverse classes of up to 8 students. Students wrote essays making connections between nature, work, and contemporary life.
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#### SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- Elected to Texas Institute of Letters, 2014
- Eichhorn Fellowship, Pittsburg State University, 2013
- Texas Book Award (Finalist), for *That Demon Life*, Writers’ League of Texas, Fall 2010
- Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction (Finalist), for *Long Time Ago Good*, Texas Institute of Letters, Spring 2010
- Staley T. Creswell Award for Excellence in Teaching, Texas A&M University, April 2009
- Charles Gordone Creative Non-Fiction Prize (First Place), Texas A&M University, April 2009
- Lynn Brown Travel Award, Writing Programs Office, Texas A&M University, March 2009
- Gival Press Novel Award, 2008

- Frederick Manfred Creative Writing Award (Runner-Up), Western Literature Association, October 2008
  - Charles Gordone Poetry Prize (First Place), Texas A&M University, April 2007
  - Lynn Brown Travel Award, Writing Programs Office, Texas A&M University, February 2007
  - Frederick Manfred Creative Writing Award (Finalist), Western Literature Association, October 2006
  - AWP Intro Journals Award – Creative Nonfiction (Honorable Mention), Association of Writers and Writing Programs, May 2006
  - Charles Gordone Fiction Prize (First Place), Texas A&M University, April 2006
  - Cushing-Glasscock Humanities Research Fellowship, Texas A&M University, July 2004
  - Cab Driver of the Month, Austin American-Yellow Taxi, August 2001
  - Ralph A. Johnston Memorial Fellowship (Dobie-Paisano Fellowship), Texas Institute of Letters and the University of Texas at Austin, 1998-1999
  - *Culture Concrete* Fiction Award, 1991-1992
  - United States Treasury Department Special Achievement Award, Internal Revenue Service, 1990
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## SELECTED CONFERENCE READINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

### FICTION/POETRY/CREATIVE NON-FICTION

- “Reliction,” Western Literature Association National Convention, Spearfish, 2 October 2009
- “12 Things I Remember About Home,” South Central Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, 7 November 2008
- “Riff Raff” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Convention, San Francisco, 20 March 2008
- “The Dry Line,” American Studies Association of Texas, Baylor University, 18 November 2006
- “The Road Back to Destruction Bay,” Western Literature Association National Convention, Boise, 28 October 2006
- “I Bought Hemingway’s Ghost a Drink,” “He Lost the World,” “Do You Think I’m Still Bitter?,” “Cock Pheasant,” “Dakota,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Convention, Austin, 10 March 2006.
- “Brindled Pit Bull,” Western Literature Association National Convention, Los Angeles, 22 October 2005

### ACADEMIC ESSAYS

- “Making Emerson Matter: Against Fate,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Convention, Boston, 8 March 2013
- “Toni McConnel and the Little Tiny Window on the World,” Western Literature Association National Convention, Lubbock, 8 November 2012
- “Revising the Writing Workshop,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, San Francisco, 12 March 2009

- “Little Miss BoSox: The Saving Grace of Baseball in Stephen King,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Convention, Boston, 6 April 2007 (Co-written with Abigail Bowers)
- “From the Self to the Page: Identity, Imagination, and the Democratization of Creativity,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, 24 March 2007.

#### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- “Student & Teacher: Mentors, Interns, & Class Interaction,” Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers, Austin, 24 September 2011
- “Following the Paths to Publication: The First Book and What Happens After,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Convention, Denver, 8 March 2010
- “Writing on Working, Working on Writing,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Convention, Atlanta, 3 March 2007
- “The Black Southwest” Southwest Writers and Artists Festival, Texas A&M University, 26 October 2006

#### PANEL CHAIRS

- “Making Emerson Matter,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs National Convention, Boston, 8 March 2013
- “Justice, Injustice, Incarceration: Environments of the American Penitentiary,” Western Literature Association National Convention, Lubbock, 8 November 2012
- “Creative Writing II,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Convention, San Francisco, 20 March 2008
- “Creative Writing I,” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, 14 February 2008.
- “Critical Appraisals of Race Identifications in Composition,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, 24 March 2007.

### SELECTED EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Editor, Alamo Bay Press, September 2013-present
- Production Editor, *Callaloo*, February 2005-November 2005
- Co-Editor, *Big Tex[t]*, June 2004-August 2006
- Editorial Assistant, *Callaloo*, August 2003-January 2005

#### BOOKS EDITED

- *Like That*, by Sybil Estess. Alamo Bay Press, 2014
- *The Cowtown Circle*, by Dave Oliphant. Alamo Bay Press, 2014
- *Janie’s Garden: Poetry from the Alamo Bay Writers’ Workshop*. Alamo Bay Press, 2014.
- *ABWW13: The Alamo Bay Writers’ Workshop Anthology*. Alamo Bay Press, 2014

### SERVICE

- American Literature Hiring Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2014
- Graduate Exam Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2014 –
- Co-Director, Veterans' Writing Group, Pittsburg State University, 2013 –
- Co-Faculty Advisor, Cow Creek Review, Pittsburg State University, 2013 –
- Creative Writing Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2012 –
- Distinguished Visiting Writers Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2012 –
- American Literature Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2012 –
- Retention and Recruitment Committee, Pittsburg State University, 2012 –
- Faculty Advisor, ACRES, Texas A&M University, 2011-2012
- Dobie-Paisano Fellowship (Judge), Texas Institute of Letters and the University of Texas at Austin, 2009, 2011, 2014
- Organizing Committee, "Poetry in a Time of Chaos," Texas A&M University, Spring 2008
- Director, *Big Tex[t]* Reading Series, 2006-2008
- New Student Mentor, English Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University, 2006-2007
- Organizing Committee, Southwest Writers and Artists Festival, Texas A&M University, 2005-2006
- Creative Writing Representative, English Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University, 2006-2007
- Initiative on the Doctorate Task Force, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching/Texas A&M University, 2004-2005

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Texas Institute of Letters  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs  
Modern Language Association  
Western Literature Association