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Education

- M.F.A. Creative Writing, 2003 University of Virginia
M.A. English, 1987 University of New Hampshire
B.A. Communications, 1982 Washington State University

Academic Positions

- 2007- Professor
Butler University Indianapolis, Indiana
2003-2007 Assistant Professor
Auburn University Auburn, Alabama
2002-2003 Teaching Assistant
University of Virginia Charlottesville, Virginia
2000-2002 Faculty Member, M.F.A. Program for Writers
Warren Wilson College Asheville, North Carolina
2000-2001 Visiting Associate Professor
New Mexico State University Las Cruces, New Mexico
1989-1999 Instructor/English Department Coordinator
Trident Technical College Charleston, South Carolina
1987-1989 English Teacher, Academically Gifted Program
Clinton High School Clinton, North Carolina
1985-1987 Teaching Assistant
University of New Hampshire Durham, New Hampshire

Publications

Books

A Mind Full of Music: Meditations on Imagination and Popular Song. Overcup, 2022.

My Father Before Me: A Memoir. Scribner, 2016.

Ransack and Dance. Silver Birch Press, 2013. (chapbook)

Black Leapt In. Barrow Street Press, 2009.

The Actual Moon, The Actual Stars. Northeastern University Press, 2003.

x. Floating Bridge Press, 2000. (chapbook)

Forgive Us Our Happiness. Middlebury College/University Press of New England, 1999.

Crumbs of Bread. March Street Press, 1993. (chapbook)

Anthologies

“Childish Things.” *The Pushcart Prize XLV: Best of the Small Presses 2021*. Ed. Bill Henderson. Pushcart, 2020. 367.

The Practicing Poet: Writing Beyond the Basics. Ed. Diane Lockward. Terrapin Books, 2018.

The Night’s Magician: Poems about the Moon. Ed. Philip C. Kolin and Sue Brannan Walker. Negative Capability, 2018.

Not Like the Rest of Us: An Anthology of Contemporary Indiana Writers. Ed. Barbara Shoup. INwords, 2016.

How to Write a Poem. Ed. Tania Runyan. T. S. Poetry Press, 2015.

Swallow Dance: A Collection of Poetry Chapbooks. Ed. Melanie Villines. Silver Birch, 2014.

The Rag-Picker’s Guide to Poetry: Poems, Poets, Process. Ed. Eleanor Wilner & Maurice Manning. UMichigan, 2013.

Noir Erasure Poetry Anthology. Ed. Melanie Villines. Silver Birch, 2013.

Summer: An Eclectic Anthology of Poetry and Prose. Ed. Melanie Villines. Silver Birch, 2013.

Good Poems: American Places. Ed. Garrison Keillor. Viking, 2011.

The Pushcart Prize XXXIII: Best of the Small Presses. Ed. Bill Henderson. Pushcart, 2009.

The Poets Guide to the Birds. Ed. Judith Kitchen and Ted Kooser. Anhinga Press, 2009.

The Best American Poetry 2008. Ed. Charles Wright. Scribner, 2008.

The Book of Irish American Poetry from the Eighteenth Century to the Present. Ed. Daniel Tobin. University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.

The Southern Poetry Anthology. Ed. Stephen Gardner and William Wright. Texas Review Press, 2006.

Poetry Daily: 366 Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website. Ed. Diane Boller, Don Selby, and Chrissy Yost. Sourcebooks, 2003.

Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry. Ed. Billy Collins. Random House, 2003.

The Pushcart Prize XXVII: Best of the Small Presses. Ed. Bill Henderson. Pushcart, 2002.

Hammer and Blaze: A Gathering of Contemporary American Poets. Ed. Heather McHugh and Ellen Bryant Voigt. University of Georgia Press, 2002.

March Hares: The Best Poems from Fine Madness 1982-2002. Fine Madness, 2002.

The New American Poets: A Bread Loaf Anthology. Ed. Michael Collier. University Press of New England, 2000.

Pontoon 4: An Anthology of Washington State Poets. Floating Bridge Press, 2000.

You, Year. Harbinger Publications, 1996.

45/96: The Ninety-Six Sampler of South Carolina Poetry. Ninety-Six Press, 1994.

Pebbles. Riverstone Press, 1993.

Book Chapters

“Throwing the Reins upon the Horse’s Neck.” *The Practicing Poet: Writing Beyond the Basics*. Ed. Diane Lockward. Terrapin Books, 2018. 142-145.

“‘Without *Although*, Without *Because*’: Syntax and Buried Memory.” *The Rag-Picker’s Guide to Poetry: Poems, Poets, Process*. Ed. Eleanor Wilner & Maurice Manning. UMichigan, 2013. 46-52.

“When I Say I: Poets’ Use of the First-Person.” *Poet’s Work, Poet’s Play: Essays on the Practice and the Art*. Ed. Daniel Tobin and Pimone Triplett. U Michigan Press, 2008. 250-265.

Journals, Etc.

“Novice.” *Ninth Letter* 18.1 (Spring/Summer 2021): 47.

“This Is It, This Is All.” *Gettysburg Review* 33.2 (Summer 2021): 192.

“Childish Things,” “Man in Garden,” “To a Goldfinch in April.” *Indianapolis Review* 10 (Fall 2019).

- “Thoughtless.” *Laurel Review* 52.1 (2019): 22.
- “What Is the Cause that the Former Days Were Better Than These?” *Massachusetts Review* 60.1 (Spring 2019): 13.
- “To a Boy in a Body.” *Bennington Review* 6 (Winter 2018/2019): 270.
- “1973.” *Gettysburg Review* 31: 2 (Summer 2018): 189-90.
- “Blind,” “Opulent, Unfunereal World.” *Plume*. Web. May 2018.
- “The Secret That Slid into the World When I Did.” *32 Poems* 15.2 (Fall/Winter 2017): 5.
- “What’s to Become of Me.” *Bellingham Review* 75 (Fall 2017). Web.
- “To Franz Wright.” *Pleiades* 37.2 (Summer 2017): 180.
- “‘Poultry?’ No, Poetry. On Moving from Verse to Memoir.” *Literary Hub*. 25 May 2017. Web. (essay)
- “Accidental Altar,” “One Note Song.” *Subtropics* 22 (Fall/Winter 2016): 85-7.
- “My Mother Would Have Written It Differently.” *Barnes & Noble Review*. 28 June 2016. (essay)
- “A Father’s Suicide Sets a Son Searching.” *The Daily Beast*. 19 June 2016. Web. (essay)
- “The Genius of Four-Year-Old Poets.” *Literary Hub*. 17 June 2016. Web. (essay)
- “Model Making.” *Laurel Review* 48.2 (Fall 2015): 111.
- “This Page Won’t Load.” *Field* 93 (Fall 2015): 74-75.
- “Borrowed Molecules.” *The Georgia Review* 69.1 (Spring 2015): 11-12.
- “Sugar and Sand.” Indiana Humanities Council web site (April 13, 2014).
<http://www.indianahumanities.org/think-read-talk/sugar-sand-chris-forhan/>
- “The Severing,” “Petition,” “While Reading *The Lives of the Saints* in a Lawn Chair,” “Spat Out.” *The Recorder: The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society* 25.2 & 26.1 (Fall 2013). 22-25.
- “The Severing.” *Verse Daily* web site (September 6, 2013).
<http://www.versedaily.org/2013/thesevering.shtml>
- “A Conversation with Charles Simic” (interview). *Booth* 5 (2013). 145-159.

- “Testament.” Indiana Humanities Council web site (April 23, 2012).
<http://www.indianahumanities.org/think-read-talk/april-24-testament-by-chris-forhan/>
- “Industrial Gothic,” “Signs,” “To That Which I Follow.” *Cerisepress.com* 2.6 (Spring 2011).
www.cerisepress.com/vol-2-issue-6-features.
- “Aspirin and Shadow.” *Verse Daily* web site (March 7, 2011).
<http://www.versedaily.org/2011/aspirinandshadow>.
- “Love Poem,” “Aspirin and Shadow.” *Pleiades* 31.1 (2011): 16-17.
- “Crude Articulation.” *The Georgia Review* 64.4 (Winter 2010): 688-89.
- “After Slipping and Floundering Down the Ladder,” “Against Transcendence,” “Late Resolution,” “Nine Sentences about You,” “A Teleology.” *West Branch Wired* (Dec. 2010). <http://www.bucknell.edu/WestBranchWired.xml>.
- “The Big Thing.” *Ploughshares* 36.4 (Winter 2010-11): 37.
- “Renunciation.” *The Laurel Review* 44.1 (Spring 2010): 51.
- Interview with Charles Simic. *Booth* 1.1 (2009).
<http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/booth/vol1/iss1/3>.
- “Postulates,” “Self-Portrait.” *Barrow Street* (Winter 2009): 26-28.
- “Why Did the Kissing Start?” *AGNI Online* (November 2009).
- “Meager Furtive Little Wedding,” “Such Love.” *Prairie Schooner* 83.2 (Summer 2009): 192-4.
- “Wild Desire.” *The Massachusetts Review* 50.3 (2009): 401.
- “My Almost-Daughter, My Nearly-Was-Son.” *Poetry Daily* web site (June 26, 2009).
- “Solo Act.” *The Georgia Review* 63.1 (Spring 2009): 80.
- “The Case Against Me,” “Children’s Chorus.” *Bellingham Review* 61 (Spring 2009): 58-59.
- “What My Father Left Behind.” *American Life in Poetry* web site/syndicated column (January 19, 2009).
- “Nothing to It.” *Verse Daily* web site (October 14, 2008).
<http://www.versedaily.org/2008/nothingtoit.shtml>
- “The Mother of Beauty.” *The Broome Review* 1 (2008): 45.
- “Bone Box,” “Brought Back.” *Image* 59 (Fall 2008): 67-8.

- “Holy Mess,” “What My Father Left Behind.” *Pleiades* 28.1 (2008): 38-40
- “Oh Blessed Season.” *Slate* (April 1, 2008).
- “And,” “Nothing to It.” *New Orleans Review* 34.1 (Spring 2008): 168-9.
- “Elementary School,” “Shrink Wrap.” *Antioch Review* 66.2 (Spring 2008): 272-3.
- “Bureau Inspection.” *Tom Aprile* (exhibition catalog). Seoul, South Korea: UM Gallery, 2007. 4.
- “My Ancestors on Either Side,” “Too Much in the Sun.” *Georgia Review* 61.1 (Spring 2007): 38-41.
- “My Life in Pictures,” “The Woods.” *Crazyhorse* 71 (Spring 2007): 7, 75.
- “Love, or Something.” *Ploughshares* 33.1 (Spring 2007): 55.
- “Hubbub and Ruck,” “Rock Polisher.” *New England Review* 28.1 (Winter 2007): 22-3.
- “One Explanation.” *Hayden’s Ferry Review* 39 (Fall/Winter 2006-7): 153.
- “Late Appraisal.” *Barrow Street* (Winter 2006): 33.
- “My Almost-Daughter, My Nearly-Was Son.” *Slate* (November 14, 2006).
- “In a Body.” *Georgia Review* 60.2 (Summer 2006): 392-3.
- “Once.” *Colorado Review* 33.2 (Summer 2006): 86.
- “Fourth Grade Science,” “Hopeful Green Stuff.” *Southern Humanities Review* 40.2 (Spring 2006): 134-5.
- “A Child's Guide to Etiquette,” “My Father's Curriculum Vitae,” “Testament,” “Toward a Full Accounting,” “Where I Come From.” *Paris Review* 177 (Summer 2006): 159-66.
- “Cruising Lake City,” “The Fall.” *Rhino* (2006): 20-1.
- “Prayer before Sleep.” *Antioch Review* 64.1 (Winter 2006): 125.
- “Dream: Natural Law.” *Ploughshares* 31.4 (Winter 2005-2006): 65.
- “Flowers of the World, with Full Color Plates,” “Thirty Year Elegy.” *Verb* 2 (2005).
- “Family Vacation,” “Joy,” “Postmortem.” *Red Mountain Review* 1 (Fall 2005): 48-50.
- “Sugar and Sand.” *Crazyhorse* 68 (Fall 2005): 9-10.

- “Dream: Obedience.” *Verse Daily* web site (October 2, 2005).
<http://www.versedaily.org/2005/dreamobedience.shtml>
- “Dead End,” “This Time.” *Bellingham Review* 28.2 (Fall 2005): 142-3.
- “Dream: Obedience.” *The Laurel Review* 39.2. (Summer 2005): 122.
- “Billet-Doux II,” “Black,” “Tattletale,” “Third Grade.” *Prairie Schooner* 79.2 (Spring 2005): 38-41.
- “School Carnival,” “Skink.” *New Orleans Review* 30.2 (Fall/Winter 2004): 38-41.
- “Climbing Down,” “Having Crept from My Bed.” *Southern Humanities Review* 38.4 (Fall 2004): 344-5.
- “The Actual Moon, The Actual Stars,” “The Very Button.” *Pinyon* 13 (Fall 2004): 20-5.
- “Vanishing Act.” *Slate* (August 10, 2004).
- “Last Words.” *AGNI* web page (July 2004).
- “No Comment,” “The Coast of Oklahoma.” *Poetry Daily* web site (November 5, 2003).
- “Deciduous,” “In the Very Temple of Delight, Veil’d Melancholy,” “It Couldn’t Have Been Helped, It Was for the Best.” 88: *A Journal of Contemporary American Poetry* 3 (October 2003): 76-8.
- “No Comment.” *Georgia Review* 57.3 (Fall 2003): 565.
- “Erasure,” “Quiet Hours.” *Bellingham Review* 26.2 (Fall 2003): 65-6.
- “Dog About Town.” *The MacGuffin* 20.3 (Fall 2003): 9.
- “Eleven,” “Sixteen.” *Hayden’s Ferry Review* 32 (Spring/Summer 2003): 104-5.
- “Some Words from My Ghost.” *Boulevard* 53/54 (Spring 2003): 164-5.
- “Birthday Dollar.” *Greensboro Review* 72 (Fall 2002): 36.
- “Keeping House Alone.” *Nebraska Review* 30.2 (Summer 2002): 80.
- “In Sepia.” *Gulf Coast* 14.1 (Winter/Spring 2002): 84.
- “Where the Past Went.” 88: *A Journal of Contemporary American Poetry* 1 (December 2001): 32.
- “Lonesome Tableau.” *Ploughshares* 27.2-3 (Fall 2001): 33-4.

- “Late Winter Rain.” *Poetry* 177.5 (March 2001): 381.
- “The Hard Sciences.” *Parnassus* 25.1-2 (2001): 585-6.
- “The Past.” *Bellingham Review* 24.1 (Spring 2001): 162-3.
- “Dumbwaiter to Heaven.” *Willow Springs* 47 (January 2001): 84-5.
- “Gouge, Adze, Rasp, Hammer,” “My Gospel Is.” *Poetry Daily* web site (January 7, 2001).
- “The Actual Moon, the Actual Stars,” “From a Shaded Porch.” *Ploughshares* 26.4 (Winter 2000-2001): 51-3.
- “Gouge, Adze, Rasp, Hammer,” “My Gospel Is.” *New England Review* 21.4 (Fall 2000): 31-3.
- “The Coast of Oklahoma,” “Simile.” *Shenandoah* 50.3 (Fall 2000): 162-4.
- “Names I’ve Been Called.” *Laurel Review* 34.2 (Summer 2000): 113.
- “Pieta.” *Ascent* 25 (Fall 2000): 17-18.
- “Billet-Doux.” *Poetry* 176.4 (July 2000): 190.
- “The Church of the Backyard.” The Writer’s Almanac with Garrison Keillor, Minnesota Public Radio (May 29, 2000).
- “Nothing Doing.” *Poetry Daily* web site (January 31, 2000).
- “The Fidgeting,” “Nothing Doing.” *Poetry* 175.2 (December 1999): 126-7.
- “Then Again.” *Gulf Coast* 10.2 (Summer 1999): 121.
- “Absolution,” “O.K. Fine,” “The Old Sense.” *Birmingham Poetry Review* 20 (Spring 1999): 10-12.
- “Before I Knew What I Was Doing.” *Teacup* (Spring 1999): 18-19.
- “Thwuck Thwuck Thwuck.” *Birmingham Poetry Review* 18 (Spring 1998): 16.
- “Elegy,” “Land Edged by Water.” *Calliope* 21.1 (Fall/Winter 1997-98): 33.
- “Against Summer.” *New Delta Review* 15.1 (Fall/Winter 1997): 30.
- “Jack’s New Chameleon.” *Birmingham Poetry Review* 15 (Fall/Winter 1996): 7.
- “Something or Other.” *Plainsongs* 16.3 (Spring 1996): 11.

“Without Presumptions,” “An Honest Forest,” “Pine Pine Pine.” *Willow Springs* 37 (January 1996): 56-8.

“A Father’s Advice to His Son.” *West Branch* 36 (1995): 84-5.

“The Seattle Mariners on the Radio Near Sequim, Washington.” *Prairie Schooner* 69.1 (Spring 1995): 165-6.

“The Church of the Backyard.” *Fine Madness* 20 (1994): 14.

“What the Earth Knows.” *The Nebraska Review* 22.2 (Spring/Summer 1994): 31.

“Song of the City Rats,” “Knowing for Certain.” *Wisconsin Review* 28.3 (1994): 62-3.

“Sanctum Sanctorum.” *Artful Dodge* 24/25 (1993): 113.

“Panorama without a View.” *West Branch* 31/32 (1993): 3.

“But Look Where Sadly the Poor Wretch Comes Reading.” *Willow Springs* 31 (Winter 1993): 74.

“Cracking Open,” “The Woman Who Could Not Wear a Hat.” *Prairie Schooner* 66.3 (Fall 1992): 38-9.

“A Test of Character.” *Webster Review* 16 (Fall 1992): 67.

“Etta Mae Crumpler, 1891-1962.” *The Greensboro Review* 52 (Summer 1992): 152.

“A Sickly Child.” *Birmingham Poetry Review* 8 (Spring/Summer 1992): 11.

“Reprisal.” *Fine Madness* 9.1 (Spring/Summer 1992): 58.

“A Visit to the Country.” *Cream City Review* 16.1 (Spring 1992): 128.

“The Chosen One.” *Fine Madness* 8.2 (Fall/Winter 1991-1992): 69.

“Yes, Well.” *Cream City Review* 15.1 (Spring 1991): 43.

“Night Construction,” “The Body at Night.” *Tar River Poetry* 30.2 (Spring 1991): 22-3.

“As Columbus Would Have It, the Earth Like a Pear.” *The Greensboro Review* 49 (Winter 1990-91). 83.

“49 Fairview.” *Mud Creek* 1.2 (1990): 22-3.

“After Shoes.” *St. Andrews Review* 38/39 (1990): 94.

“The Barefoot Widow,” “The Death of a Child in Winter.” *Webster Review* 14.2 (Spring 1990):

65-6.

“Homer Ray Benson Descends into St. Paul,” “An Escaped Giraffe in the Courthouse Gardenias.” *The Glens Falls Review* 7 (1989-90): 24-5.

“Finding My Father in an Old Photograph.” *Cold Mountain Review* 17 (1989): 30.

“Pierce City, Missouri Summer 1890.” *Kentucky Poetry Review* 25 (Spring 1989): 36.

“Sunday School, 1965.” *The Seattle Review* 12.1 (Spring/Summer 1989): 72.

“The Large Hoop,” “Scapegoat,” “Carney.” *Wisconsin Review* 23.2 (1989): 8-10.

“Autumn Leaves.” *Colorado-North Review* 29.1 (Winter 1988): 47.

“Anthropology.” *Mississippi Valley Review* 18.1 (1988): 61.

“At the Railroad Station, I Met a Raven.” *Gryphon* 13.1 (1988): 54.

“What Furniture Means.” *Fine Madness* 4.2 (Fall 1987).

Presentations

“Getting on the Tenure Track: The MLA Interview and the Campus Visit.” Panel participant, The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference. Hilton Hotel, New York. 31 Jan. 2008.

“Contemporary Poetry and the Renaissance.” *Forms in Time: Constants in Poetry Since the Renaissance*. Kristiansand, Norway. September 12, 2003.

“What Happens When I Say ‘I.’” Warren Wilson College M.F.A. Program for Writers. Asheville, North Carolina. July 6, 2002.

“A Careful Disorderliness: Being Not Quite in Control of Your Poem.” Warren Wilson College M.F.A. Program for Writers. Asheville, North Carolina. July, 2001.

“The Sense of Sound.” Warren Wilson College M.F.A. Program for Writers. Asheville, North Carolina. July 13, 2000.

“The First Book.” Richard Hugo House. Seattle, Washington. April 20, 2000.

“From Word to Word: Shifts in Diction.” Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Ripton, Vermont. August 16, 1999.

Awards and Honors

2020 Pushcart Prize

- 2019 Creative Renewal Fellowship, Arts Council of Indianapolis
- 2016 *Library Journal* Best Books of 2016 selection (for *My Father Before Me*)
Discover Great New Writers selection (for *My Father Before Me*), Barnes & Noble
- 2011 Creative Renewal Fellowship, Arts Council of Indianapolis
- 2010 Best Book of Indiana Award (for *Black Leapt In*), Indiana Center for the Book
- 2008 Barrow Street Press Book Award (for *Black Leapt In*, selected by Phillis Levin)
Pushcart Prize
- 2007 Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts
Residency, Corporation of Yaddo
Selected for *Best American Poetry 2008*
- 2006 Residency, Corporation of Yaddo
- 2005 Theodore Christian Hoepfner Award, *Southern Humanities Review*
- 2004 Washington State Book Award (for *The Actual Moon, The Actual Stars*)
Humanities Development Grant, Auburn University College of Liberal Arts
- 2003 Samuel French Morse Prize (for *The Actual Moon, The Actual Stars*, selected by Robert Cording), Northeastern University
- 2002 Pushcart Prize
Selected for Billy Collins' *Poetry 180* Project
- 2001 Hoyns Fellowship, University of Virginia
Residency, Corporation of Yaddo
- 2000 Residency, Corporation of Yaddo
Floating Bridge Press Annual Poetry Chapbook Award (for *x*)
Gift Exchange Grant, The Richard Hugo House, Seattle
- 1998 Bakeless Prize (for *Forgive Us Our Happiness*, selected by Ellen Bryant Voigt, and conference fellowship), Bread Loaf Writers' Conference
- 1997 First Place Award, South Carolina Academy of Authors Poetry Fellowship
- 1991 Grant for Poetry, Trident Community Foundation
- 1988 English Teacher of the Year Award, Clinton City Schools
- 1987 Dick Shea Memorial Poetry Award, University of New Hampshire