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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Writing, Fiction Emphasis, University of California, Irvine, California, 1990
B.F.A., Acting, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, 1980

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Welsh Fasting Girl: a novel, Bellevue Literary Press, NY, NY; forthcoming May 2019
The Master's Muse, a novel, Scribner, NY, NY; May 2012
(hardcover, paperback, audio, large print, and Japanese editions)
The Cure, a novel, Bellevue Literary Press, NY, NY; May 2007
A Company of Three, a novel, Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, NY; September 2003
Like China, a novel, William Morrow, NY, NY; February 1991

SHORT PROSE

"Walter Jean, c. 1979," a personal essay, *The Missouri Review*, Fall 2014
"Shot World," a short story, *Santa Monica Review*, Fall 2014
"Finding the Truth in Fiction," *Publishers Weekly*, March 19, 2012
"An Interview with Paul Harding, 2010 Pulitzer prize-winner in fiction"; *AWP Writer's Chronicle*, March 2012
"Blue Station Wagon, circa 1961," a personal essay, *The MacGuffin*, Spring/Summer 2010
"The Empathic," a short story, *The Sun* magazine, February 2008
"Exercise in Putting Characters into Action," contribution to anthology *Naming the World and Other Exercises for Creative Writers*, ed. Bret Anthony Johnston; Random House, January 2008
"Suki," a personal essay, *The Sun* magazine; October 2007
"Forsytes," a personal essay, *Driftwood* literary journal, Soldotna, AK; April 2007
"An Interview with Sigrid Nunez," *AWP Writer's Chronicle*; February 2007
"Upstaging Divine," a personal essay, *Algonkian* magazine; April 2003
Novel chapter excerpt from *Hatherfords* (AKA *The Cure*), *Faultline: Journal of Art & Literature*; April 2001

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Little Biographies: Stories and Essays

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

Kent State Creative Activity Appointment (awarded for new novel about the “Welsh Fasting Girl”), Fall 2013

Kent State Provost’s Research Award (for new novel about the “Welsh Fasting Girl”), 2011

Kent State University Research Grant (for new novel about the “Welsh Fasting Girl”), 2011

Kent State University Creative Activity Appointment (awarded for *The Master’s Muse*), Fall 2009

Kent State University Research Grant (*The Master’s Muse*), 2008

Kent State University Teaching Council Award, 2008 & 2011

Writing Program Essay Award for “The Sky Reversed;” travel grant for *Like China*; 2 years of teaching fellowships; University of California, Irvine, 1987-1989

RECOGNITION

Rain Taxi Review of Books, Fall 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Erin Lewenauer
Washington Independent Review of Books, July 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Karen Hansen

Historical Fiction Notebook, Spring 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed
New York Times, feature article on *The Master’s Muse*: “Dancing Around the Truth,” February 15, 2012, by Holly Brubach

New York Times, May 30, 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Susannah Meadows

The Slate Book Review, December 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Maria Konnikova

Vanity Fair Book Review, June 2016, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Elissa Schappel

O. the Oprah Magazine, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Sara Nelson

Haaretz, feature article on *The Master’s Muse*, June 2012

Capitol Magazine, feature article/review of *The Master’s Muse*, February 29, 2012, by Joel Lobenthal

Venu Magazine, feature article on *The Master’s Muse*

Spencer Daily Reporter, May 18, 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Kate Padilla

Vogue.com, May 28, 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Antonia Jedrzejak

W Magazine, May 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Michael Slenske

Warwick’s Books Blogspot, Sept. 13, 2012, “An Obsession with Ballet: Adriana’s List of Must Read Ballet-Themed Books,” review of *The Master’s Muse*

Greenwich Library Blog Staff picks, review of *The Master’s Muse*

One For the Table, “*The Art of Living with Mr. B.*” *The Master’s Muse* reviewed by Katherine Vaz

Editorialeyes.wordpress.com, August 12, 2012, “The Fifth Mrs. Balanchine: A Review of *The Master’s Muse* by Varley O’Connor”

Quirky Bookworm, May 29, 2012, “Book Review: *The Master’s Muse*”

Whatsnewinbooksatcvl.blogspot.com, April 11, 2012, *The Master’s Muse* reviewed

Dianesbooks.com/Diane's Picks, Spring 2012, *The Master's Muse* reviewed
Fivealarmbookreviews.com, March 27, 2012, "A Book Worth Waiting For: *The Master's Muse*"
Curledup.com, June 18, 2012, *The Master's Muse* reviewed by Michael Leonard
Lunanegramag.com, June 29, 2012, Casey Nichols interviews Varley O'Connor
The New York Times, May 17, 2007, *The Cure* reviewed by Amy Virshup
Freewilliamsburg.com, May 2007, *The Cure* reviewed by Janyce Stefan-Cole
Book Check: Cauldron Online; University of St. Thomas, *The Cure* reviewed by Danny Dyer
Freewilliamsburg.com, March 2004, *A Company of Three* reviewed by Janyce Stefan-Cole
New York Times Book Review, April 19, 1991, *Like China* reviewed by Joan K. Peters
San Francisco Chronicle Review, April 7, 1991, *Like China* reviewed by Marilyn Stablein
Observer/Eccentric, March 21, 1991, *Like China* reviewed by Victoria Diaz
Orange County Register, 1991, feature article on Varley O'Connor
New York Times Long Island Edition, 1991, feature article on Varley O'Connor

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference, March 2016

Panel: "Writing Fiction in the 'Post-Feminist' Era," Moderator & Presenter

Visiting Writer Talk & Reading, "Nonfiction in Fiction," Malone University, Canton, OH; January 2014

Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference, March 2013

Panel: "Fiction About Creative Artists," Moderator & Presenter

Presentation "Where Fiction Comes From," Ohio Author Day, Hudson Library; April 2013

Squaw Valley Community of Writers, July 2012; Craft talk/Presentation: "Structure in Prose Writing"

Panel: "Beginnings: Getting Their Attention" (re. the novel) Presenter

Panel: "Writing Beyond the Conference"; Presenter

Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference, March 2012

Panel: "Writing in the Rust Belt" Presenter

Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference, February 2011

Panel: "Representing the Erotic in Literary Fiction" Moderator & Presenter

Literary Orange Writing Conference, UC Irvine, CA, 2010

Panel: "Threads through Time," memory and history in literary fiction and nonfiction

Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference, February 2009

Panel: "Writing about Disability Across the Genres" Moderator & Presenter

Panel: "Approaches to Historical Fiction" Presenter

Kent State University Conference: “Celebrating College Teaching,” October 2008
Talk, Roundtable discussion leader: “Writing the Medical Experience”

Squaw Valley Community of Writers, August 2007: Panel member, “Historical Fiction”;
Panel member, “What to Write About: Finding Your Subject”

Squaw Valley Community of Writers, August 2004: Panel member, “Point of View in Fiction Writing”
and Presentation with Julie Barer, of Barer LLC, on Authors and their agents

North Carolina Writer’s Network, November 2004: Presentation on plotting the novel

2003 Conference on 20th Century Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, February 2003:
Reading from *Hatherfords*, AKA *The Cure* (a then-work-in-progress)

Squaw Valley Community of Writers, August 1991: Panel member, “Character in the Novel”

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Spring 2014	Final Judge, Fiction Writing Award; Malone University
Spring 2009 and 2010	Final Judge, Engleman Creative Writing Award; Kent State University
Spring 2010 and 2017	Final Judge, Zurava Writing Portfolio Award; Kent State University
Spring 2006	Final Judge, Undergraduate Prose Contest; Hofstra University

READINGS/INTERVIEWS

University of California, Irvine, February 2015
Cleveland Book Group, Talk and Reading, November 2014
Brews & Prose, Ohio City, Ohio; November 2013
YSU Poetry Center at The McDonough Museum of Art; April 2013
Beachwood Library “Local Perspectives,” Cleveland, OH; November 2012
Cedar-Coventry Library Author Series, Cleveland, OH; October 2012
“The Dee Perry Show,” WCPN Cleveland, September 2012
Squaw Valley Community of Writers, Truckee, CA; July 2012
Vroman’s Bookstore, Pasadena, CA; June 2012
University of California at Irvine; June 2012
The Blue Marble Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA; May 2012
Gaithersburg Book Festival, Gaithersburg, MD; May 2012
Cleveland State University Reading Series, Cleveland, OH; March 2009
Chi Omega Sorority Book Club of Kent State; Kent, OH; April 2008
Youngstown State University Reading Series, Youngstown, OH; February 2008
The Writer’s Voice Visiting Author Series, NY, NY; October 2007
The Mercantile Library Reading Series, NY, NY; October 2007
Squaw Valley Community of Writers, CA; August 2007
Northern NJ Post-polio Convention; July 2007
Community Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY; June 2007

University of California at Irvine; May 2007
Sackett St. Novel Writing Workshop Reading, Brooklyn, NY; May 2007
Viewpoint Gallery (Reading/Art Show), NY, NY; October 2004
Squaw Valley Community of Writers, California; August 2004
Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY; May 2004
Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY; November 2003
Housing Works Bookstore, NY, NY; September 2003
University of California at Irvine; September 2003
Dutton's Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA; September 2003
NYC Dept of Youth and Community Development, NY, NY; September 2003
Squaw Valley Community of Writers, CA; August 1991
The Independent Bookstore, Modesto, CA; July 1991
Dutton's Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA; June 1991
Border's Bookstore, Newport Beach, CA; April 1991
University of California at Irvine; February 1991
"Bookworm" KCRW, Michael Silverblatt, host, June 1991

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter quarter, 2015 Visiting Fiction Writer, University of California, Irvine
Course taught: Graduate Fiction Workshop

August 2007-present Associate Professor, Creative Writing, English, NEOMFA Faculty, Kent State University

Courses taught: Craft & Theory of Nonfiction Writing, graduate course
Graduate Fiction Workshop
Graduate Nonfiction Workshop
Craft & Theory of Fiction, graduate course
(one on fiction style; one upcoming on Elena Ferrante and Alice Munro)
Craft & Theory: "Writing the Body," graduate multi-genre course
Books 1 & 2, graduate course on novel writing
Introduction to Multi-genre Creative Writing, undergraduate workshop
Fiction II, undergraduate workshop
Creative Nonfiction, undergraduate workshop
Fiction I, undergraduate workshop
Craft & Theory: "Writing the Body," graduate course
English Senior Seminar: "Writing the Body"

2003-2006 Instructor of English, Hofstra University

Courses taught: Introduction to Creative Writing (3 genres: fiction, poetry, drama)
Independent studies in novel writing
English 001, as part of an interdisciplinary cluster with philosophy and computer science;
theme: "Cultural Identity and Difference"

English 002, Writing about Literature; themes: “The Human Cost of War” & “Enchantment”
English 001 with philosophy and psychology; theme: “Animal Lives”

2001-2002 Adjunct Professor, Brooklyn College

Courses in Composition/Introduction to literature

1997-1999 Adjunct Professor, Marymount Manhattan College

Courses in Critical thinking and writing

1987-1992 Adjunct Lecturer/Graduate Assistant, University of California, Irvine

Courses in Fiction and Composition

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2013 Community Workshop in Creative Nonfiction; Learned Owl Bookshop, Hudson, OH

Summer 2012 Fiction Staff, Squaw Valley Community of Writers; Truckee, California
Workshops and individual conferences in fiction

Summer 2007 Fiction/Creative Nonfiction Staff, Squaw Valley Community of Writers; California
Workshops and individual conferences in fiction and memoir

Spring 2007 Workshop Leader, Sackett Street Workshop; Brooklyn, NY
Workshop in novel writing

Summer 2004 Fiction Staff, Squaw Valley Community of Writers; California
Workshops and individual conferences in fiction writing
Also served on the staff in 1991

November 2003 Workshop Leader, North Carolina Writers Network
Workshops in the novel (developing and foregrounding plot)

Fall 2003 Workshop Leader, NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development
Workshops in creative writing strategies for teachers of adult literacy

2002-2003 Language Coordinator, Yeshiva Rabbi Chaim Berlin
Developed innovative instruction in poetry and fiction writing for Orthodox Jewish boys,
grades 3-5; edited a literary journal of the boys’ writing for the community.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

1995-2003 Assistant to the Publisher of Turtle Point Press, NY, NY
Turtle Point is a small literary press, publisher of the poets Richard Howard and David Trinidad,

among others, and such fiction writers as Brian O'Doherty, Joe Ashby Porter, and Hal Bennett. Assisted in all phases of the publishing process, including marketing and editorial.

1980-1986/1994-2004 Acting Experience

Until changing my career emphasis to fiction writing in 1986, I worked as an actor and as an occasional acting teacher and coach, activities I have occasionally resumed and which have contributed to my career as a fiction writer and English teacher.

NEOMFA & UC IRVINE THESIS COMMITTEES

Sharon Cebula, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
LeeAnn Marhevsky, Creative Nonfiction (Director)
Dawn Hackett, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
Lisa Langford, Playwrighting (Reader)
Amy Purcell, Fiction (Director)
Katie Trook, Fiction/Nonfiction Hybrid (Director)
Kelly Bancroft, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
James Winter, Fiction (Reader)
Cathy Fahey-Hunt, Fiction (Reader)
Scott Barr, Fiction (Reader)
Marianne Jackson, Creative Nonfiction (Director)
James De Monte, Fiction (Director)
John Sklar, Fiction (Reader)
Marissa Marangoni, Fiction (Director)
Jeremy Sayers, Fiction (Reader)
Ryan Rodriquez, Fiction (Director)
Alyssa Berthiaume, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
Shurice Gross, Fiction (Director)
Alex Cox, Fiction (Director)
Brittany Stone, Fiction (Reader)
Amanda McCoy, Fiction (Director)
Matthew Meduri, Fiction (Director)
Ryan Lind, Fiction (Director)
Dustin Horner, Fiction (Director)
Rebecca Spagnuolo, Fiction (Reader)
Abi Bechtel, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
Lisa Horiuchi, Fiction (Reader)
Scott Lerner, Fiction (Reader)
William Hawkins, Fiction (Reader)
Michael Dull, Fiction (Director)
Erin Lawrence, Fiction (Director)
Adam Yeich, Fiction (Director)
Melanie Murphy, Nonfiction (Reader)
Xan Schwartz, Nonfiction (Reader)
R.C. Albright, Fiction (Director)

KENT STATE UNDERGRADUATE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

Joyce Ng, Creative Nonfiction (Reader)
Allison Hessel, Short fiction (Director)

KENT STATE/NEOMFA COMMITTEE WORK

Visiting Writer's Committee 2008-2010
Wick Poetry Center Advisory Board 2008-2010
Writing Program Committee 2010-2012
Library Committee 2010–present
Poet Search Committee 2009-2010 academic year
NEOMFA Admissions Committee 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018
(Served on both Fiction & Nonfiction Committees 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018)
English Department Chair Search Committee (fall 2011)

REFERENCES

Michelle Latiolais, Author/Professor and Co-director of Programs in Writing, University of CA, Irvine
latiolai@uci.edu

Ron Carlson, Author/Professor and Co-director of Programs in Writing, University of CA, Irvine
ron.carlson@uci.edu

Maggie Anderson, Author/Emerita Professor, Kent State University
manders0@kent.edu

Mary Morris, Author/Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
Mmorris348@yahoo.com