

SARAH LEAVENS

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EDUCATION

MFA Nonfiction and Poetry
Concentrations in Pedagogy & Travel Writing
Margaret L. Whitford Fellow
August 2012
Chatham University, Pittsburgh PA

BFA English (creative writing) and
Visual Art (painting)
Magna Cum Laude, May 2006
Wittenberg University, Springfield OH

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2015-. Visiting Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh, Department of English
Pittsburgh, PA

Grant and Proposal Writing (ENGCMP1400) [3 sections]

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-2015 Part-time Faculty, University of Pittsburgh, Department of English
Pittsburgh, PA

Grant and Proposal Writing [x6]
Professional Uses of Social Media
(Developed this advanced topics course upon request from department])
Written Professional Communication

2015-. Writing Instructor, Pittsburgh Arts in France
Ambialet, France

Travel Writing
Bookbinding

2011-. Instructor, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
Pittsburgh, PA

ADULT WRITING CLASSES

Travel Writing [x2]
Essential Poetry [x2]
Narrative Poetry
The Prose Poem
Memoir & Personal Essay [x2]

ADULT VISUAL ART CLASSES

Figure Drawing
Intermediate Drawing [x2]
Drawing Lab

TEEN & YOUTH CLASSES

Creative Reuse [x2]
Murals [x2]
Drawing [x3]
Self-Portrait [x2]
Life Drawing

2004-. Independent Teaching Artist/Writer/Bookbinder
Various Locations

RESIDENCIES

Poetry and Bookbinding, Project Jericho "Spread Your Wings" Summer Arts
Camp, Springfield, OH, June 2015
Poetry and Bookbinding, Clark State Community College "College for Kids,"
Springfield, OH, June 2015

WORKSHOPS

Handmade Journals, Sojourner House Women's Writing Program with Chatham
University, June 2014
Travel Poetry, Visiting Artist, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, May 2014
"The Sky is Not Just Blue: Place and Setting," University of Pittsburgh Writer's
Café, March 2014
Exploring Poetry, Community Human Services, Pittsburgh, February 2014

2011 Writing Instructor, Earth Ink! Afterschool Program, Pittsburgh

OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Specialist, Community Outreach and Education, Clark State Community College

Springfield OH, Aug. 2006–July 2010

Develop and direct interdisciplinary arts curriculum for Project Jericho, arts outreach program at Clark State Performing Arts Center. Facilitate projects with hired artists, including instruction of art forms to participants. Lead public project presentations. Participate in college programs and initiatives. Grant writing and reporting.

AWARDS/RESIDENCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

Pushcart Poetry Prize Nomination, 2013

Out of the Forge Writing Residency, Braddock PA, 2012–2013

- Nine-month post-MFA residency

Best Thesis Award (Poetry/CNF), Chatham University, 2013

Margaret L. Whitford Fellowship, Chatham University, 2010–2012

- Full two-year fellowship for leadership role in MFA student organization

Clark State President's Award for Outstanding Service, Spring 2008

Wittenberg Scholar Award (Scholarship), 2001-2006

Allen J. Koppenhaver Prize, 2006

- Annual award for senior English major demonstrating breadth & depth of multidisciplinary and scholarship interests

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Publications/Creative Work

WRITING

"The Vital Gesture," *mojo*, Spring 2013, *Mikrokosmos*, Summer 2013

"Let's," *Nerve Cowboy*, Summer 2013

"Mirror Sonnet for my Mother's Mother," *Corium*, Feb. 2013

"[Hallelujah Fills]," *Corium*, Feb. 2013

"Dog Heat Summer," *So to Speak*, Spring 2013

"Grooming," *Weave*, July 2013

"On Biting One's Tongue," *Weave*, July 2013

"Impasto," *Stone Highway Review*, Feb. 2013

"Mother Tongue," *Stone Highway Review*, Feb. 2013

"How to Escape," *Blast Furnace*, Dec. 2012

"February on 8B," *Blast Furnace*, Dec. 2012

"Natural History" *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Sept. 2012

"Sauna, Early Arab Spring" *Diverse Arts Press*, Sept. 2012

REVIEWS/INTERVIEWS/ACADEMIC PAPERS

"A Review of BK Loren's *Animal, Mineral, Radical*," *Weave* March 2013

"Goats, Genre, and Getting Closer to the Truth," Interview, Brad Kessler *Fourth River*, Fall 2011

“Paradise’ Lost: Descent from an Eden of Understood Hierarchies,” *Spectrum*, Spring 2005

ARTWORK

“Power Without a Face,” *Out of Sequence: The Sonnets Remixed from Upstart: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies*, August 2014

“Body Sketches 1 & 2” *Weave Magazine*, June 2011

Logo, *Green Wittenberg*, Jan. 2009

“Enso 1” and “Branch 1,” *Wittenberg Review of Literature and Art*, Spring 2005

“Abstracted Flower,” *Wittenberg Review of Literature and Art*, Spring 2004

Presentations

“Paradise’ Lost: Descent from an Eden of Understood Hierarchies,” Winter 2005
Cedarville University (OH) Literary Conference

Readings

Featured Reader, “Acquired Taste: Hunter, Gatherer, Forager, Scavenger,” Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 2015

Featured Reader, “Cornucopia: Poems from the Proverbial Kids’ Table,” Pittsburgh PA, Nov. 2013

Featured Reader, “NOISE,” Penn State, Reading PA, April 2013

Featured Reader, “Mean Girls,” Pittsburgh PA, March 2013

Featured Reader, California University of PA, Feb. 2013

Featured reader, “Versify,” Pittsburgh PA, Feb. 2013

Featured reader, “Wood-Fired Words,” Braddock PA, Oct. 2012

Featured reader, “Jam2Jam,” Pittsburgh, Nov. 2012

Reader, “I Don’t Know What I’d Do, If I Couldn’t Speak My Mind,” Sept. 2012

Featured Reader, *Weave Magazine* Issue 6 & 7 Release Party, Jan. 2012

Reader, “I Don’t Know What I’d Do, If I couldn’t Speak My Mind,” Sept 2011

Featured Reader, “Word Circus,” Chatham MFA Reading Series, Jan. 2011

Most Wanted Fine Art Gallery, Pittsburgh PA

Reader, “Lettura Di Poesie,” Palazzo Casali, Cortona, Italy, April 2006

Reader, “Borrowed Kimonos,” Wittenberg University, Sept. 2005

Exhibitions

Solo show, “Book/Arts,” May 2013

East End Book Exchange, Pittsburgh PA

Two-person Show, “Faster than Walking,” April 2013

Unsmoke Art Systems, Braddock PA

Group Show, “Three Ring Circus,” Feb. 2012

Most Wanted Fine Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

Group Show, “Faces of Chatham,” Feb 2011

Most Wanted Fine Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

Featured Artist, “Transitions: Traces and Spaces” Group Show, July 2010

Yellow Springs (OH) Arts Council New Gallery Opening

Member Show, Yellow Springs Arts Council, July 2009
 The Art Space Gallery, Yellow Springs, OH
 UGA Artists' Group Exhibition "Mostra," April 2006
 Palazzo Casali, Cortona, Italy
 Senior Thesis Group Show, April–May 2005
 Koch Hall Gallery, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH
 "Snow in Ochre," Honorable Mention, Annual Juried Show, 2004
 Springfield (OH) Museum of Art
 Wittenberg Group Show, "11:38 PM," Jan. –Feb. 2006
 Ann Miller Gallery, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH
 Solo Exhibition, "Paintings," Nov. –Dec. 2005
 Arts Interface Gallery, Springfield, Ohio
 "Tree," Honorable Mention, Annual Juried Show, 2004
 Springfield (OH) Museum of Art

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Using the Grade Center, Pitt CIDDE Workshop, Sept. 2015
 Meet the Funders in Corporate Grantmaking, Nonprofit Resource Center, Oct. 2014
 Multimedia Teaching and Learning, Pitt CIDDE Workshop, Oct. 2014
 Conversations and Connections, *Barrelhouse* and Chatham University, October 2014
 AWP 2013 Conference, March 2013
 Nonfiction Workshop with Scott Russell Sanders, Aug. 2012
 AWP 2012 Conference, Feb. 2012
 Bridges to Other Worlds Conference, Chatham University, Oct. 2011
 Nonfiction Workshop with Barbara Hurd
 Bridges to Other Worlds Conference, Chatham University, Oct. 2010
 Nonfiction Workshop with BK Loren
 AWP 2011 Conference, Feb. 2011
 Yellow Springs Community Writing Workshop, Aug. 2009–Aug. 2010

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Reader, *Creative Nonfiction*, Summer 2013
 Nonfiction and Poetry Reader, *Fourth River*, Chatham Univ. Spring 2011
 Editorial Assistant, *Wittenberg Magazine* "Class Notes," Fall 2001–Spring 2003
 Co-Editor, Art Component, *Wittenberg Review of Art and Literature*, 2003/4-2004/5

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Panel presenter, Grant Professionals Panels (Fall 2015)
 Panel participant, "Conversations on Part-Time Faculty Experience," (Spring 2015)
 Member, Internship Committee (2015-16)
 Member, Pedagogy Committee (2015-16)
 Member, Undergraduate Placement Committee (Spring 2015)

COMMUNITY SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

Guest Speaker, Steel Town Sampler Tour (Braddock Brick Oven), March 2015
 Volunteer, City of Asylum literary events, Fall 2011–Present
 Volunteer, Poetry Out Loud, Pittsburgh Filmmakers/PCA, Feb. 2013
 Judge, Poetry Out Loud, CAPA 6-12, Pittsburgh, Feb. 2013
 Volunteer Firer/Chef, Braddock Community Brick Oven, Summer 2011–Present
 Participant, City of Asylum focus group for Alphabet City literacy center, March 2012
 Judge, Poetry Out Loud, CAPA 6-12, Pittsburgh, Feb. 2012
 Volunteer, Child Life, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Feb.–Aug. 2011
 Board Vice President, Yellow Springs Arts Council, July 2008–July 2010
 Judge, Annual YSHS Art Show Scholarship, Spring 2009, 2010
 Judge, Annual Poetry Contest, Clark County Public Library, April 2008, 2009
 Member, Community Advisory Panel, Wittenberg Ctr. for Civic
 & Urban Engagement, Spring 2008–10

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Baker, Allegro Hearth Bakery, May 2013—Aug 2015
 Representative, Graduate Student Assembly, Chatham Univ., 2010–2011 & 2011–2012
 Student Representative, MFA Faculty Meetings, Chatham Univ., 2011–2012
 Co-Organizer, “Word Circus,” Chatham MFA Monthly Reading Series, 2010–2011
 Co-Chair, MFA Council, Chatham University, 2010–2011 & 2011-2012
 Department Assistant, Community Outreach and Education
 Clark State Performing Arts Center, May 2005–Jan. 2006
 Work Study/Intern, Clark State Performing Arts Center, Aug. 2001–May 2005
 Administrative Assistant, Ear, Nose & Throat of Springfield, May 2003–Jan. 2004
 Freelance Artist/Independent Contractor, Fall 2004–Present
 Proofreader, Harcourt Industries, Milroy IN, Summer 2002
 Assistant, Images of Time Photography, Rushville IN, 1999-2001

OTHER

Affiliations

Member, AWP: Associated Writers and Writing Programs, Fall 2010–Present

Trainings

Visual Thinking Strategies, Fall 2012

International Study

Vietnam: Chatham University, April–May 2012
 Western Turkey: Chatham University, May 2011
 Cortona, Italy: University of Georgia Studies Abroad, Jan. –April 2006
 Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan: Wittenberg University, July 2005, Writing and Literature

REFERENCES

Available upon request.