

In constructing this portfolio, I will allow myself to be immodestly proud of the breadth of my creative work since my first published story in March, 2000, in *Byline Literary Magazine*, out of Oklahoma. In the two decades since, I have published sixty-nine short stories and essays in a wide variety of magazines, journals, and newspapers, from obscure lit mags to mass-circulation periodicals such as *U.S. News & World Report*, *Real Simple Magazine*, and the *Baltimore Sun*. Several of these short stories have been anthologized into larger works. Many of the essays are travel writing, a content area in which I have won several awards and routinely lecture. During this time, I have also published ten books with seven different publishers. These include two novels (with another forthcoming in 2021)—one of which was a middle grade novel inspired by my daughters and the girls soccer teams I have coached over the years—a biography of a 16th century conquistador (University of New Mexico Press), four guidebooks to Baltimore and Maryland, a collection of essays on shipwrecks, and another collection on vanished explorers. Additionally, I not only teach screenwriting, but write screenplays as well. I have won multiple competitions, fellowships, and scholarships for my scripts. I tend to be resistant to singing my own praises; talk of my publication record and awards makes me uncomfortable. But here, in applying for a Baker Award, I realize I need to sell myself and, yes, I am okay admitting on a computer screen that I am proud of the above.

Thank you for looking at my portfolio and projects.

Evan Balkan