



Leslie Harrison

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Education

M.F.A.

University of California,
Irvine. Creative Writing.
2006

M.A.

The Johns Hopkins
University. The Writing
Seminars.
2000

B.S.

Syracuse University.
The S.I. Newhouse
School of Public
Communications. 1984

Publications

BOOKS AND ANTHOLOGIES

Books

Reck. The University of Akron Press. March 2023

The Book of Endings. The University of Akron Press. January 2017

Displacement Poems. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. July 2009

Anthologies

Tree Lines: 21st Century American Poems.

Grayson Books. April 2022

Old Growth—The best writing about trees from Orion Magazine

Orion Magazine. Winter 2021.

The Orison Anthology: Volume 4.

Orison Books. November 2019

Still Life With Poem: 100 Natures Mortes in Verse.

The Literary House Press. 2016

The Book of Scented Things: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry.

The Literary House Press. October 2014

Before the Door of God: An Anthology of Devotional Poetry. Yale University
Press October 2013

Best of the Web 2010. (Anthology). Dzanc Books. 2010

Best of the Net 2010. (Web Anthology). 2010

BROADSIDES

Washington College and the Rose O'Neill Literary House. [Practice] 2017

Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Conservancy. Tuolumne Poetry
Festival. Tea. 2015

Center for Book Arts Broadside Reading Series. New York. [Salt] 2009

JOURNALS (POEMS)

From *Reck* and recent uncollected

Copper Nickel: Parable of the Elephant. Fall 2022

The Cortland Review: Shipwreck—what love is, Ars poetica—ink.
Fall 2022

Sixth Finch: Ars poetica—etymology, Apocalypse looks different
than we thought. April 2022

Plume Poetry: Parable of the Little Ghost, Voyager Parable. August 2021

On The Seawall: Shipwreck—the ark, Selva Oscura. August 2021

Bennington Review: Kinship Parable, Wandering Heart Parable.
Summer 2021

Michigan Quarterly Review: Hiberenacula Parable. Winter 2022
(Reprinted in Poetry Daily May 2022)

Pleiades: Parable of the maps. July 2020

Waxwing: Parable of desire, Parable of the telephone,

[We lived so long in the fire], Radiation Parable. June 2020

Tinderbox Review: Parable of the dictionary, Parable of the dead. March 2020

Kenyon Review: The Things They Know; A Blessing; So Far. March 2020

Publications (continued)

New England Review: Shipwreck—invitation. November 2019
Baltimore Review: Fortune. October 2019
Zocalo Public Square: Ars Poetica. August 2019
Literary Matters 11.3 Spring/Summer 2019
Literary Matters 11.2 Winter 2019
Christianity and Literature Volume 68, Issue 3.
West Branch: Praise song with coyotes and foxes, Shipwreck—Domestic,
Shipwreck—The shore, This is what I would say to you. April 2018
Oversound: [The trees] February 2018
Cherry Tree: [Charm against the death of the bees], Shipwreck—it's like
they're sleeping. February 2018
New Limestone Review: Anatomy of a Woman's Spine, At the Circus, Another
Letter, [Scientists grown new hearts in the shells of old hearts].
September 2017
Four Way Review: [No. 118], [A prayer for our mortality]. October 2016
The Faculty Voice (University of Maryland System): [Failed love poem]. April 2016
The Paris American: (Poem of the Week) [Corona penumbra]. March 2016
The Laurel Review: [People die from this], [He was given once]. 2015
Gulf Coast: [Poisoning the birds]. Winter/Spring 2015
Water-Stone Review: [Memento mori]. 2015
Tinderbox Poetry Review: [In saecula saeculorum], This is the letter I
would write you, {I want you he whispered I want you.}. June 21, 2014

From *The Book of Endings*

The Poetry Foundation: [Stutter], [That], [I would drive to your grave], [Touch
me now], [Wilt thou play with him as with a bird]. November 2017
The Bennington Review: [I would drive to your grave]. Winter 2016
The Faculty Voice (University of Maryland System): [Sirens],
[Snowfields]. April 2016
Zocalo Public Square: [Nest]. April 2016
Narrative: (Poem of the Week) [Charm for a spring storm] May 2015
Cherry Tree: [Practice], [That]. February 2015.
[That] reprinted in Verse Daily
The Kenyon Review: [There are things you love]. January 2015
Reprinted in Poetry Daily
Water-Stone Review: [Wrong], [Imagine]. 2015
Gulf Coast: [Was it ice]. Winter/Spring 2015
Orion: [Parable]. January 2015
The New Republic:
[Things the realtor will not tell the new owner]. July 2014
[Stutter]. May 26, 2014
West Branch: [Sisyphus in love], [Bezoar], [Take eat]. Spring 2014
Subtropics: [God Speaks]. Spring 2014

Publications (continued)

Connotation Press (A Poetry Congeries): [What I mean], [Otzi], [Over].
December 2013
Pleiades: [Actias Luna]. Fall, 2013
The Delmarva Review: [Summa mathematica], [Wilt thou play with him as
with a bird], [Parable]. 2012
FIELD: [December]. 2012
West Branch: [Because in all your life you've lived], [Coda]. 2012
West Branch Wired: [The orphan child eats blueberries in Vermont],
[Invocation]. 2012
Plume Poetry: [To say]. 2011
Antioch Review: [I keep throwing words at the problem because words]. 2011
Kenyon Review Online: [Eve]. Summer 2011
Zocalo: [The Horses]. 2010
Birmingham Review: [Salt], [Landscape with falling birds]. 2010
Barn Owl Review: How It Started, [Once] 2009. [Venice] 2010

From Displacement

Barn Owl Review: How It Started. 2009
Orion: Tea. January 2009
Sewanee Theological Review: A Thousand Miles 2006, Solstice, 2009
Memorious 11: How I Became a Ghost, Love -as Memory. December 2008
The New Republic: Autobiography -as a Vase. October 2008
Diode: Huntley Meadows, May; Home -as Hiking; Winter; Maps. Fall 2008
Burnside Review: The Maps. 2008
Ninth Letter: Binary. 2008
Pool V: Inventory, The Day Beauty Divorced Meaning. 2006
Poetry: Pantoum for a Walk in the Woods, The Four Elements. 2002
Solo: A Journal of Poetry. Fragments—10 Reasons Why I Hike. 2002

Early Uncollected

Southwest Review: Sylvia Hartwick, William Sanford, The Park Interpreter
Speaks. 2003

PROSE, ESSAYS, INTERVIEWS, REVIEWS

Book Jacket Copy/Blurbs:

Blurb for Above the Birchline: Poems by Pia Taavila
Gallaudet University Press, 2021

Blurb for *The Grace of Distance* by Matthew Thorburn
LSU Press. August 2019

Blurb for *Tropical Landscape with Ten Hummingbirds* by Greg Rappleye
Dos Madres Press. October 2018

Selected interviews:

Baker Artist feature for *Artworks* Maryland Public Television May 2019

Publications (continued)

Rubbertop Review: Late 2018
WVOX live radio: January 16, 2018
LitHub: November 6, 2017
90.3 WCPN Cleveland: Oct. 20, 2017
Ploughshares: July 9, 2017
Memorious: March 22, 2017

Selected Reviews (The Book of Endings)

Image: August 2018
Texas Review: February 2018
Publisher's Weekly: December 4, 2017
Sewanee Review: December 2017
Frontier Poetry: September 19, 2017

Earlier essays, interviews, reviews

How a Poem Happens—Contemporary Poets Discuss the Making of a Poem. (howapoemhappens.blogspot.com). November, 2011
Does Particle Physics Have a Place in Today's World? Houghton Mifflin web feature for National Poetry Month. April 2011
First Book Interview. (firstbookinterviews.blogspot.com). March 2011
Horse and Rider. Book Review. On the Seawall. 2010
Interview/Discussion with Jehanne Dubrow. Boxcar Poetry Review. Summer 2010
The Best Day...Ever. Newspaper. 2007
True Tragedy is Local. Book Review. Gulf Coast. 2006
Finding Quinn. Newspaper. 2006

Selected Honors and Awards

Baker Artist Award in Literary Arts. 2019.
National Book Award Finalist. 2017. *The Book of Endings*.
National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship. 2011.
Baker Artist Portfolio Finalist in Literature. 2018
Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award. 2014.
Pushcart Nomination. 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018.
Fellowship, The Sewanee Writers' Conference. 2012.
Bucknell University. Roth Residence in Poetry. 2010.
Katherine Bakeless Nason Fellowship in Poetry. The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference 2009.
Katherine Bakeless Nason Publication Prize in Poetry. 2008.
Tennessee Williams Scholarship, The Sewanee Writers' Conference. 2008.
Graduate Student Teaching Award, University of California, Irvine, Dept. of English. 2006.
Nominee for Humanities Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of California, Irvine. 2006.

Selected Honors and Awards (continued)

Humanities Research Grant, University of California, Irvine. 2006.
Graduate Student Essay Award, University of California, Irvine,
Dept. of English. 2005.
Humanities Travel Grant University of California, Irvine. 2005.
Morton Marr Prize in Poetry, Southwest Review. 2002 (Finalist 2000, 2001).
Mensa

Teaching Interests

Creative writing workshops in poetry and creative nonfiction, modern and contemporary poetry, poetics, history and theory of the lyric, prosody and poetic forms, the lyric essay, introduction to creative writing, writing about place, visual communications, composition, and theory of creativity.

Teaching Experience

August 10-present. Full Professor—Towson University
August 2018-August 9, 2023. Associate Professor—Towson University
August 2012-July 2018. Assistant Professor —Towson University
Summer 2016, 2017. Poetry faculty. The Cherry Tree Young Writers Conference
Jan. 2012-May 2013 Visiting Assistant Professor—Washington College
Jan. 2011-Dec. 2011 Berkshire Community College
Courses: Advanced Composition, American Poetry after 1945.
Sept. 2010. Arts College Common Hour. Bucknell University
Surrealism in art and creative writing with Diana Park.
Aug. 2009. Craft Class at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference: Revising into Rhyme.
Sept. 2008-June 2010. Berkshire Community College.
Courses: Composition. Advanced Composition.
Sept. 2004-August, 2006. University of California, Irvine
Courses: Composition, Personal Narrative. Introduction to Creative Writing—Poetry.
Sept. 2001-2003 Berkshire Community College.
Course: College Composition.
Visiting Faculty in Communications, 2002-2003. Bay Path College.
Courses: Graphic Design, Digital Photography.
Writer in Residence, 2000, 2001. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology.
Writer in Residence in Creative Nonfiction.

Courses Taught

At Towson University

Graduate (M.S. in Professional Writing):
PRWR 647 Writing Poetry

Courses Taught (continued)

PRWR 641 Theory of Creativity
PRWR 670 Topics in Writing--Poetics
PRWR 625 Design, Layout and Production

Undergraduate

ENGL 311 Writing Poetry
ENGL 315 Writing Creative Nonfiction
ENGL 411 Advanced Poetry Writing
ENGL 417 Topics in Writing (Form & Experimentation in Poetry)
ENGL 261 Elements of Poetry
ENGL 300 Research Methodology
ENGL 371 Women Poets—Themes and Images
HONR 379 Honors Independent Study
ENGL 414 Editing the Literary Magazine I
ENGL 415 Editing the Literary Magazine II
ENGL 417 Topics in Writing (Poetics)
ENGL 440 Contemporary American Poetry
ENGL 485 English Capstone Seminar
ENGL 490 Independent Study
ENGL 499 Capstone Honors Thesis

At Washington College

ENG 101 Composition and Literature
ENG 222 Introduction to Poetry
ENG 454 Creative Writing Workshop Creative Nonfiction

Selected Panels & Readings

Panels

National Book Long-list Panel—Miami Book Festival
Finding and Making the Most of Fellowships—New Leaves MFA Conference at George Mason University, April 2013.
Strategic Thievery—AWP February, 2011: A panel that looks at the ways poets choose to be influenced by, and learn from, their predecessors.
First Loves—Women Writers and the Women Writers Who Influenced Them. Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. With Katie Peterson, Tess Taylor and Michelle Gillette. The Mount in Lenox, Massachusetts (home of Edith Wharton) March, 2011.

Conference Paper

Hybrid Spaces: Buffy Summers as Metaphor for the Landscape of Southern California. Southwest/Texas PCA/ACA Conference in Albuquerque NM, February 2005.

Selected Panels & Readings (continued)

Selected Readings

- Reading and conversation with Will Schutt at The Ivy Bookshop. July 15, 2023
With Matthew Thorburn and Anthony Cappo at The Grolier Poetry Bookshop,
Cambridge, MA. June 21, 2023.
- Greedy Reads launch of *Reck* with Matthew Thorburn and
Jeannie Vanasco. May 23, 2023.
- National Poetry Month Poetry Showcase at Enoch Pratt Free Library. April 2023.
- Sabbatical Presentation. TU. December 2019.
- Hot L Baltimore Reading Series. December 2019.
- Baker Artist Portfolio Literary Showcase. Bird in Hand Bookstore, Baltimore. April 2019
- National Book Award Finalist Reading. New York City, live web streamed
internationally. November 2017
- National Book Award Long-list Reading. Miami Book Festival. November 2017
- Baker Award Finalist Reading. Bird in Hand Bookstore. April 2018
- Cherry Tree Young Writers' Conference Faculty Reading. July 2017.
- Launch Reading—*Still Life With Poem*. With James Allen Hall, dawn longsinger,
Jason Schneiderman, James Arthur, Dora Malech and Lindsay Lusby. The
Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College. October 18, 2016.
- Mule Poetry Tour Reading—With Justin Boening, Jennifer Kronovet, and
James Arthur. Baltimore. October 2016.
- Cherry Tree Young Writers Conference Faculty Reading. July 2016.
- Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival. August 14-17, 2015.
With Camille Dungy and Jay Leeming.
- Distinguished Alumnae Reading & Visiting Writer—The Writing Seminars,
The Johns Hopkins University. February 24, 25 2015 With Natalie
Shapiro.
- D.C. Launch Reading—*The Book of Scented Things*. With Sandra Beasley,
Shara Lessley, James Arthur, and Michelle Chan Brown. Arts Club of
Washington. October 29, 2013
- Launch Reading—*The Book of Scented Things*. With Jehanne Dubrow,
Lindsay Lusby, Sandra Beasley, James Allen Hall and Meredith
Hadaway. The Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College.
October 2014
- Geopoetics—Writing about Place. Towson University. Sponsored by the
Department of Geography and Environmental Planning. With John
Hessler, Michael Ratcliffe, and others. October 2014.
- Reading with Angela Pelster-Wiebe—The Ivy Bookshop. Baltimore.
October 2014.
- Wordworks' Cafe Muse Reading Series—Washington D.C. January, 2014.
- Delmarva Review Launch Reading—The Writer's Center, Bethesda, MD.
January 2013.
- Fellows' Reading—Sewanee Writers' Conference. 2012.
- Becket Arts Center. August 2011.

Selected Panels & Readings (continued)

Young Writers' Conference—Bard College at Simon's Rock. Reading and Question & Answer session. August 2011.

Collected Poets Series—With Diana Gordon. May, 2011.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Reading—AWP February, 2011: A reading celebrating Michael Collier's first decade as poetry editor at HMH. With Andrew Hudgins, Linda Gregerson, Maurice Manning, Rodney Jones.

Massachusetts Poetry Festival—Reading for Memorious. With David Rivard, Gail Mazur and Tess Taylor. March, 2011.

Berkshire WordFest—With Susan Orlean, Garrison Keillor, Katy Lederer. June, 2010.

Bucknell University—With Diana Park. October, 2010.

Washington College—Reading and Q&A with writing students. November, 2009.

Blacksmith House Reading Series—With Ron Slate. November, 2009.

Center for Book Arts Broadside Reading Series—With Matthew Thorburn and Chase Twitchell. November, 2009.

Bakeless Prize Reading—The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. July 2009.

Scholar's Reading—Sewanee Writers' Conference. 2008.

Graduate Student Reading Series—The University of California, Irvine. 2004, 2005.

Alumni Reading—The Writing Seminars at The Johns Hopkins University. October, 2001.

Academic Administration & Service

Department of English Standards Chair Fall 2023-present

Search Committee Member. Towson University Assistant Professorship in Technical Communication. 2022-2023.

Department of English Steering Committee 2021-present

Department of English PTRM Committee. Appointed Spring 2021.

College of Liberal Arts PTRM Committee 2020-2021 (leave replacement)

Department of English Curriculum Committee. Fall 2019-2021.

Hannah Nathan Rosen Writing Prize selection committee Spring 2019-present

Poetry Judge—The Kurt Brown Prize (AWP) 2018

Mentor in AWP Writer-to-Writer Mentorship Program. Fall 2016.

Oversee endowment for purchase of poetry collections for Towson University's Cook Library. Ongoing.

Academic Administration & Service (continued)

- TU Graduate Program in Professional Writing Committee. Appointed Fall 2016.
Steering Committee, Department of English. Elected to 3-year term in Fall 2016.
Department of English. Academic Adviser. Appointed to 3-year term. Fall 2015-Spring 2018.
- Planning Committee for Baltimore Writers' Conference. 2013-Present.
- Co-director of the Towson Literary Reading Series. 2013-2017, 2019-Present.
- Reader in poetry for the Towson Literary Prize. 2013-Present.
- Lecturers Rank Chair for Merit, Department of English PTRM committee. September 2013-2017.
- Coordinator Poetry Out Loud Regional Finals. 2015
- Geopoetics—Helped plan and organize event. 2014
- Search Committee Member. Towson University Assistant Professorship in Creative Nonfiction. 2012-2013.
- Screening Reader: Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Bakeless Prize in Poetry 2009, 2010. Screening reader for judges Arthur Sze in 2009, and Carl Phillips in 2010 for annual book publication contest.
- Assistant Course Director: Truth & Lies-Personal Narratives.
- Poetry Teaching: Created first ever handbook for teaching Poetry Writing course, including: solicited course materials (syllabi, sample lesson plans, reading lists, writing exercises) from all present and past instructors of course, organized and collated all materials into handbook for new teachers. Sought large shared office for poetry staff, created textbook library for staff, instituted informal meetings and discussions among staff and mentoring opportunities for new staff.
- Anteater Reader: Recommended additions and reading sequence for university published anthology used in all first-year composition courses, assisted in copy editing and proofreading anthology.
- Faultline Literary Journal: Redesigned literary journal, liaised with pre-press company to insure high quality product, designed and helped produce supplement honoring James McMichael's 40th anniversary of teaching at UCI.
- Fine Print: Publishing in the Shadow of Big Media: Created and produced 4-color glossy schedule distributed to all conference participants.

Other Work Experience

Production Manager, Graphic Designer—The Berkshire Record 2001-2003, 2006-2010.

Managed all production, systems, and design for a weekly newspaper

Program Manager, Graphic Designer—Storey Communications 1996-1999

Began as a book designer and was promoted to lead designer within six months. Promoted again, I managed all aspects of a publishing program with million dollar-plus sales.

Freelance Editor/Designer, 1999 to present. Clients include Time Life Books, Reader's Digest, Storey Publishing and Barnes & Noble.

Staff Photographer/Photo Editor—The Berkshire Eagle 1986-1996; Foster's Daily Democrat 1984-1986

References Available on Request