

Gregg Wilhelm, MA, MFA

he/him/his

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PROFESSIONAL

2018-

George Mason University

Director, [Mason Creative Writing](#) (BFA and MFA Programs)

Co-Founder, [Watershed Lit](#): Center for Literary Engagement and Publishing Practice

Associate Professor, [English Department](#) (Promoted June 2024)

The MFA was the first terminal-degree program in the English Department at Mason (1980). An undergraduate BFA in Creative Writing was launched as one of the few such programs in the country (2013). Today, the community consists of about 100 BFA students and 75 MFA students; I oversee all marketing, recruiting, onboarding, and academic advising; navigate matters with ten tenure-track faculty members, numerous term faculty colleagues, support staff, the chair of the department, and the dean of the college; and manage a budget of \$1.3 million in graduate student funding, a corresponding \$700,000 in tuition waivers, \$30,000 in marketing and operating, \$20,000 in Provost Supplemental Funds, and a combined \$100,000 in Mason Foundation accounts and endowments that support scholarships, fellowships, additional tuition, and miscellaneous student funding requests and program expenses. Over time, the program developed various opportunities for students to expand and deepen their literary citizenship and knowledge of publishing: Fall for the Book literary festival (1998), Stillhouse Press (2014), the Cheuse Center for International Writers (2016), *Poetry Daily* (founded 1997, Mason 2019), Northern Virginia Writing Project (1978), and two acclaimed literary journals, *phoebe* (1971) and *So To Speak* (1993). Guided by award-winning faculty and accomplished publishing professionals, students graduate as emerging writers who are highly prepared to sustain writerly lives and attain career goals. In 2020, Watershed Lit was launched as a chartered center of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the center serves as a collaborative hub for the entities mentioned above. Fall for the Book and *Poetry Daily* are registered 501(c)3 organizations with their own board governance and fundraising capabilities; I serve on the board of the former and act as executive director of the latter.

- Manage, develop, and adapt graduate and undergraduate creative writing programs in accordance with program guidelines, departmental bylaws, college objectives, and institutional and accrediting bodies' regulations
- Serve as chief spokesperson and representative for the program at campus, community, and industry functions
- Develop and implement marketing and communications strategies to achieve recruitment, enrollment, and retention goals
- Collaborate with director of composition and director of writing center to evaluate and interview teaching assistantship candidates (TAs receive stipend, tuition waiver, and optional health care coverage)
- Created Graduate Professional Assistantships to complement Graduate Teaching Assistantships as funding channel to support talented student-writers who prefer other professional development opportunities outside of

the classroom (these positions, in turn, have significantly increased the operational capacities and program outcomes of entities like Fall for the Book, *Poetry Daily*, Stillhouse Press, and the Cheuse Center for International Writers)

- Create ways to coalesce the combined synergy of program assets to benefit students, to raise the program's profile among its peer programs and contribute to the English Department's status at the university, to engage and enlighten other campus and community constituents, and to entice donors toward making larger, more transformational gifts
- Develop, collect, and assess data according to assessment criteria set forth by the department (on both grad and undergrad levels)
- Maintain effective website and social media presence
- Advise students regarding course registration, program requirements, and professional and/or internship opportunities
- Consult with faculty for academic year course offerings and enrollment goals
- Collaborate with college advancement colleagues to develop, implement, and evaluate various fundraising
- Member of the English Department Chair's Advisory Committee
- Proficiencies: Target X/Salesforce, BlackBoard, Canvas, TK20, Nuventive, Courseleaf, Adobe Creative Suite, Canva, DaVinci Resolve and other video editing platforms, CMS platforms, some WordPress/Elementor usage

2019- **Daily Poetry Association**
Executive Director

Manage operations, governance, fundraising, advertising, and strategic planning efforts of a nonprofit arts organization that publishes *Poetry Daily* (poems.com). Founded in 1997, Daily Poetry Association partnered with Mason Creative Writing in 2019 and took residence on the Fairfax campus. In addition to convening a strategic roundtable with various stakeholders, overhauling the website, and convening a new editorial board, the new leadership model has created a curriculum that dovetails with the online journal and engages Creative Writing students as interns, readers, administrative specialists, and sponsorship managers. Since 2019, the organization has increased its subscription base by 30%, created Open Educational Resources for high school teachers, garnered support from local and national funders, and developed a robust poetry program for high school students in the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

2013-2018 **Maryland Institute College of Art**
Director of Marketing and Enrollment Development

Developed strategy and implemented initiatives to promote programs and recruit/retain students within MICA's School for Professional and Continuing Studies. Took communications and marketing lead on the transition team as the division rebranded as [MICA Open Studies](#). Division's programs included studio courses for lifelong learners, summer camps for youth, professional development opportunities for artists, two online MPS programs (Data Analytics & Visualization and UX Design), an MBA/MA in Design Leadership program in partnership with Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School, and international travel programs.

- Developed, executed, and evaluated messaging and marketing strategies for division, including social media campaigns and mobile advertising

- Developed recruiting and retention strategies
- Wrote and edited copy for publications and web
- Selected images and provided art direction for publications and web
- Coordinated recruitment and marketing events such as open houses, informational sessions, and exhibitions
- Spokesperson for division with the goal of increasing enrollment

2011-2013 **University of Baltimore**
Term Professor, School of Communications Design

Taught in [MFA in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts](#) program
Positioned CityLit Project as an on-campus lab for the MFA program

2006-2011 **Apprentice House / Loyola University Maryland**
Director and Editor-in-Chief

Directed day-to-day operations of [student-staffed teaching press](#) at Loyola University. Student teams developed, designed, and created marketing strategies for book projects.

- Developed teaching press facilitated by undergraduate students
- Taught courses as an affiliate professor in the Communication Department
- Served as adviser of the Apprentice House Student Activities Club
- Managed office operations and on-going marketing plans for books

Special courses developed:

- Book Publishing: From Idea to Writer, From Manuscript to Bound Book
- Book Production: History, Typography, Design, and Formats
- Book Marketing: 21st-Century Strategies for 15th-Century Artifacts

2006-2011 **Various Universities**
Continuing Studies Divisions

Creative writing, book publishing, and marketing courses within adult education divisions at Johns Hopkins University, Community College of Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel Community College

2004-2016 **CityLit Project**
[CityLit Project](#), Founder and Director Emeritus
CityLit Press, Publisher (2010-2020)
Interim Chair, Board of Directors (2024-)

Founded nonprofit literary arts organization that serves readers and writers in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Organization presents literary festivals, conducts writers' workshops, delivers creative writing curricula for youth, inspires diverse audiences of all ages to engage with literature, and publishes work of exceptional literary quality and work of regional interest. It celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024, and the organization remains a significant contributor to the city's cultural landscape. After much deliberation and constellation with the current executive director, agreed to return as interim Board Chair to help facilitate another period of leadership transition.

- Executive leadership and strategic planning
- Board governance, development, and management
- Budgeting and fiscal oversight

- Development (special events, grant writing, foundation and corporate relations)
- External relations and media relations
- Program creation, implementation, and evaluation
- Traditional and social media marketing, including branding and messaging
- Staff, intern, and volunteer management
- Book and marketing collateral design

Highlights:

- CityLit Festival named a “can’t miss event on the city’s cultural scene” (*Baltimore*)
- Featured authors include Pulitzer Prize winners Edward P. Jones, Steve Coll, and Junot Díaz; National Book Award winners Mark Doty and Jaimy Gordon; biographer Walter Isaacson; poets Edward Hirsch, Tom Lux, Dick Allen, Andrei Codrescu, Michael Collier, and Afaa Michael Weaver; nonfiction writers Jamal Joseph, Benjamin Busch, Jabari Asim, and Taylor Branch; fiction writers Laura Lippman, Danielle Evans, Alan Cheuse, Terese Svoboda, Thomas Glave, George Saunders, John Darnielle
- Harriss Poetry Prize chapbook contest judges include Michael Salcman, Dick Allen, Tom Lux, and Marie Howe
- CityLit Stage at Baltimore Book Festival, CityLit Studios, CityLit Teens, CityLit Press series of branded programs
- Mayoral proclamations “CityLit Day in Baltimore”

Babe Ruth Museum

Director of Communications

Joined the leadership team of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum during a period when it planned and opened a \$16 million, 22,000-square-foot Sports Legends at Camden Yards attraction in historic Camden Station adjacent to Oriole Park

Tidewater Publishers

Marketing and Production Manager

Managed book design and production processes and marketing, promotion, and sales efforts for Eastern Shore-based book publisher

Woodholme House Publishers

Director and Editor-in-Chief

Developed and pitched the business plan to owners of Bibelot Books, a family of five large-scale independent bookstores

Cathedral Foundation Press

Director and Editor

Developed and led book publishing imprint affiliated with the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s publication *The Catholic Review*

Johns Hopkins University Press

Acquisitions Assistant

Supported acquisitions editors managing lists in social sciences, history, and regionalia; oversaw paperback reprints for titles in these lists

EDUCATION

- MFA Creative Writing, Fiction (University of Tampa, Tampa, FL)**
- *Thesis*: “Backbeat the Waves” (novel)
 - *Chapbook*: “Out of Miry Clay” (poetry)
 - *Essay*: “Off the Map: Creating a Real Sense of Place for Fictitious Towns in Strout’s *Olive Kitteridge* and Kenan’s *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*”
 - *Essay*: “Skunks and Armadillos: Foreign Places as Inspiration in Selections by Lowell and Bishop”
 - *Mentors*: Terese Svoboda (novel), Erica Dawson (poetry), Jason Ockert (short story), Tony D’Souza (novel, thesis advisor)
 - *Guest Lecturers*: Denis Johnson, Miranda July, Peter Meinke, Heather Sellers, Chris Parris-Lamb, Michael Connelly, Arthur Flowers, Nick Flynn, Keith Gessen, Amy Hill Hearth, Eli Horowitz, John Capouya, Ben Lerner, Rebecca Wolff, Francine Prose, Karen Russell, Deborah Treisman, Tom Franklin, George Saunders, Robert Olen Butler, Tom Franklin, Beth Ann Fennelly, Sandra Beasley, Jessica Anthony, Brock Clarke, Kevin Moffett
- MA Theology (St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD)**
- *Thesis*: “Heavy with the Fruits of Violence: Liberation Theology and Revolutionary Violence in Latin America”
 - *Primary Reader*: Dr. Stephen Vicchio, College of Notre Dame of Maryland
Secondary Reader: Dr. L. Gregory Jones, President, Belmont University
- Graduate Scholarship Year, Theology (Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC)**
- Studied with Stanley Hauerwas
 - Audited English courses by Reynolds Price and Stanley Fish
- BA Communications/Fine Arts (Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD)**
- Studied with Karen Fish, David Dobler, Jack Stephens, Paul Lukacs

SELECT TITLES ACQUIRED/EDITED/PUBLISHED***Fiction***

Basilio Boullosa Stars in the Fountain of Highlandtown, Rafael Alvarez (CityLit Press, 2017)

Ripple Meets the Deep, Jason Tinney (CityLit Press, 2014, Baltimore Magazine’s “Best Book”

Habana Libre, Tim Wendel (CityLit Press, 2013)

City Sages, Jen Michalski, ed. (CityLit Press, 2010) Baltimore Magazine’s “Best Book”

Oysterback Spoken Here, Helen Chappell (Woodholme House, 1998)

The Fountain of Highlandtown, Rafael Alvarez (Woodholme House, 1997)

Nonfiction/Photography

A Peachy Life: Waiting on Tables and Beating the Odds in the ‘60s—An Italian-American Woman’s Story, Leonora “Peachy” DiPietro Dixon (CityLit Press, 2011)

Crossroads: Lives & Legacies of Baltimore Jazz, Mark Osteen, Ed. (Apprentice House, 2010)

Deranged: Finding a Sense of Place in the Landscape and in the Lifespan, Jill Sisson Quinn (Apprentice House, 2010)

Who Killed Donte Manning? The Story of an American Neighborhood, Rose Marie Berger with Foreword by Jim Wallis (Apprentice House, 2010)

Flashes in the Night: The Sinking of the Estonia, Jack A. Nelson (Apprentice House, 2010)

Exhaust the Limits: The Life and Times of a Global Peacebuilder, Charles F. Dambach (Apprentice House, 2010)

Prayer for the Morning Headlines: On the Sanctity of Life and Death, Adrianna Amari, Photography with Poems by Daniel Berrigan and Introduction by Howard Zinn (Apprentice House, 2007)

* Garnered the last endorsement given by Kurt Vonnegut

Bodine's Chesapeake Bay Country, Photographs by A. Aubrey Bodine, Edited by Jennifer Bodine (Tidewater Publishers, 2005)

Out of the Fog: The Sinking of the Andrea Dora, Allot Mattsson, English Translation Edited by Gordon W. Paulsen and Bruce G. Paulsen (Tidewater Publishers, 2003)

Leap Into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe, Leo Bretholz and Michael Olesker (Woodholme House, 2000)

Down on the Shore: The Family and Place that Forged a Poet's Voice, Adele V. Holden (Woodholme House, 1999)

Fighting Chance: Journeys Through Childhood Cancer, Harry Connolly with Dr. Curt I. Civin and Foreword by Tom Clancy (Woodholme House, 1998)

KAL Draws a Crowd, Kevin Kallaugher (Woodholme House, 1997)

* Political cartoonist for *The Sun* and *The Economist*

The Papal Visit: Pope John Paul II in Baltimore (Cathedral Foundation, 1995)

* Papal mass in early October with commemorative hardcover photo book printed locally, proofed in Rome, and on shelves by Thanksgiving

Poetry

Poet Sounds, Gerry LaFemina and Christine Stroud, eds. (CityLit Press, 2019)

Behind Normalcy, Burgi Zenhausern (Judged by Erica Dawson, CityLit Press, 2019)

Clash by Night, Gerry LaFemina and Gregg Wilhelm, eds. (CityLit Press, 2015)

Asphalt, Rebekah Remington (Judged by Marie Howe, CityLit Press, 2013)

Every Bit of It, Katherine Bodgen (Judged by Tom Lux, CityLit Press, 2012)

Famous, Bruce Sager (Judged by Dick Allen, CityLit Press, 2011)

An Easy Place / To Die, Vincent Cellucci (CityLit Press, 2010)

Supposing for Instance, In the Space-Time Continuum, John Pursley III (Judged by Lia Purpura, Apprentice House, 2009)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

“The Key Bridge and Artistic Grief: When the Real Site of a Novel’s Climax Collapses.” Under development. NONFICTION

“Still Life with Spider Plant on Sunday Morning” and “Town & Country.” *Gargoyle* (Online #8). Summer 2024. POETRY

“Cry of Tin.” *JMWW*. April 2024. POETRY

“Checking Out of Hotel COVID: One family’s story from the front lines of Baltimore’s pandemic healthcare response this year.” *Baltimore Magazine*. December 2020. NONFICTION

“Leaning Into Purple Lines,” “Sakura,” “Thief River Scrap,” “Tight with Hemingway,” and “Coyotes at Dawn” *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*. Summer 2019. POETRY

“Thief River Scrap” and “Jutting Out.” *Gargoyle*. No. 65. 40th Anniversary Edition. POETRY

“Ephibiphobia Rainfall.” *Loch Raven Review*. Vol. 1 2016. SHORT STORY

“Jutting Out (Patapsco) and “Arithmetic of an Argument.” *The Light Ekphrastic* (Baltimore LED Project). Spring 2015. POETRY

“What Ink.” *Gargoyle*. No. 61. Summer 2014. POETRY

“Coal Mines.” *Smile, Hon, You’re in Baltimore*. Occupational Hazards No. 17. Fall 2013. ESSAY

“The 82nd Eunuch,” “Irony (Hemochromatosis),” “Garden City,” and “Coyotes.” *The Broadkill Review*. Volume 6, No. 6 November/December 2012: 32-33. POETRY

“University Press or Teaching Press: University of Missouri Proposes New Model for Its UP.” *Tampa Review Online*. Publish 2, 2012. ESSAY

“Adoptive Grandmother Continues to Watch Over Me,” *Tampa Review Online*. Publish 1, 2012. NONFICTION

“Black Infiniti: A Used Car Proves the Vehicle For a Local Poet’s Legacy.” *City Paper*. 28 May 2008: 20. NONFICTION

“Reaching Out to Others Living in the ‘War Zone.’” *Johns Hopkins Public Health*. Fall 2006: 13. NONFICTION

“When Depression Is a Family Matter.” *Johns Hopkins Public Health*. Fall 2006: 14. NONFICTION

“Hard-Wired to Heal.” *Johns Hopkins Nursing Magazine*. Spring 2006: 23-27. NONFICTION

“Cutting Through the Smoke” (Devra Davis, *When Smoke Ran Like Water*). *Johns Hopkins Magazine*. June 2003: 36-41. NONFICTION

MISCELLANY

Member, Association of Writers and Writing Programs (2009-)

Vice-Chair, AWP Mid-Atlantic Region (2022-)

Commissioner, Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences (2025-)

Inaugural Board Member, Poe Baltimore (transition team when City of Baltimore turned over stewardship of the Poe House to a new nonprofit organization)

Panelist, Literature: Audience Development, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Panelist, Literature: The Big Read, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Panelist, Grants for Projects, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (2025)

Panelist, Selection Committee, Fairfax County (VA) Poet Laureate (2022 and 2024)

Panelist, Selection Committee, Maryland State Poet Laureate (2024)

Auditor, Northwoods Writers' Conference (Bemidji State University, 2024)

Resident in Fiction, Taos Novelists Retreat (Taos, 2018, John Dufresne)

Resident in Poetry, Northwoods Writers' Conference (Bemidji State University, 2017, Elizabeth Bradfield)

Select Participant, First-Ever *Publishers Weekly* Publishers Delegation to Cuba (Havana, 2016)

Resident in Fiction, DISQUIET International Literary Program (Lisbon, 2015, Stefan Kiesbye)

Recipient, Charles F. (Chic) Dambach Award for Service to the Literary Arts (2015)

Resident in Fiction, Sewanee Writers' Conference (University of the South, 2014, Tony Earley and Alice McDermott)

Past President, Maryland Publishers Association

Member, Maryland Citizens for the Arts and Americans for the Arts

Recipient, Literary Arts, Rubys Artist Project Grant (Literary Art, 2014)

Recipient, Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award (Literary Art 2016, 2024)