

Brendan Stephens

April 2024

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EDUCATION

PhD, Literature and Creative Writing - Fiction, May 2022
University of Houston
Dissertation: *Fleshbound*
Advised by Chitra Divakaruni

MFA, Creative Writing - Fiction, May 2017
University of Central Florida
Thesis: *Blood Moon*
Advised by Jocelyn Bartkevicius

MAT, Secondary Education - English, May 2012
Frostburg State University

BS, English - Creative Writing, May 2009
Frostburg State University

AA, General Studies, May 2007
Garrett College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of English, 2023-present

Creative Writing - Poetry & Drama (1 section)

Technical Writing (1 section)

Composition I with lab (3 sections)

Composition II - Understanding Conspiracy Theories (3 sections)

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2022-2023

- Advanced Fiction - Master's Level (1 section)
- Advanced Fiction - Undergraduate (1 section)
- Foundations of College Writing (4 sections)
- Writing about the Disciplines (1 section)

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Instructor of Record, 2018-2022

- Fiction Forms Online (1 section)
- Introduction to Drama Online (1 section)
- Beginning Creative Writing Workshop - Fiction (1 section)
- Creation and Performance of Literature (2 sections)
- First Year Composition I Online (2 sections)
- First Year Composition I (2 sections)
- First Year Composition II (3 sections)

Facilitator, 2017-2018

- First Year Composition I (4 sections)
- First Year Composition II (4 sections)

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Instructor of Record, 2016-2017

- Introduction to Creative Writing (4 sections)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2015-2016

- Creative Writing for Non-Majors (2 sections)
- Theory and Practice of Creative Writing (2 sections)

INPRINT WRITER WORKSHOP

Instructor, 2019-2022

- Fiction Workshop (2 sections)
- Online Fiction Workshop (1 section)
- Online Advanced Fiction Workshop (1 section)

BOLDFACE CONFERENCE

Instructor, 2019 & 2021

Screenwriting and Stage Writing Online
Genre Fiction

BISHOP WALSH SCHOOL

Secondary Education Teacher, 2012-2015

English, Language Arts, British Literature, American Literature, Communications

PUBLICATIONS

Short Story: "Scapegoat," *Georgia Review*, forthcoming

Short Story: "Hell's Mountain," *Clever Magazine*, Best American Short Story nominee, Issue 42, Summer 2023

Short Story: "The Medusa Border," *The Pinch Journal*, Pushcart Prize nominee, Issue 43.1, Spring 2023

Short Story: "Gasping for Breath, Ears Ringing," *Notre Dame Review*, Issue 49, Winter/Spring 2020

Short Story: "Visitation," *Sequestrum*, Winner of New Writer Award, Issue 24, June 2020

Short Story: "Off Meds," *Into the Void Magazine*, Winner of 2019 Fiction Contest, Issue 15, February 2020

Short Story: "Ouija Board," *Pacifica Literary Review*, Issue 15.2, May 2019

Short Story: "A Lifetime," *Into the Void Magazine*, 2nd Place in 2018 Fiction Contest, Issue 19, January 2019

Short Story: "Rascal," *SmokeLong Quarterly*, Issue 62, December 2018

Short Story: "Dead Phoenix," *EPOCH Magazine*, Volume 67, Number 3, Fall 2018

Short Story: "Blue Nothing," *Santa Ana River Review*, Spring 2018

Short Story: "The Waters," *Southeast Review*, Issue 36.1, Spring 2018

Short Story: "Tattoos," *Ghost Parachute*, January 2018

Short Story: "Infinity Mirror," *Pegasus*, July 2017

Short Story: "For Lucky," *East Bay Review*, 2017

Short Story: "Camp Potomac," *Ghost Parachute*, May 2017

Short Story: "Eliot," *Black Fox Literary Magazine*, Winter 2016

Short Story: "Blood Moon," *Little Patuxent Review*, Summer 2015

Short Story: "Without Her," *In-Flight Literary Magazine*, April 2015

Short Story: "Miles Measured in Hours," *Backbone Mountain Review*, Prose Award, 2014

Poetry: "Grandfathers in Wartime," *Hole in the Head Review*, Vol 4. No. 4, Nov 2023

Poetry: "Waiting," *Hole in the Head Review*, Vol 4. No. 4, Nov 2023

Poetry: "Watching TV with Busted Antennas," *Hole in the Head Review*, Vol 4. No. 4, Nov 2023

Poetry: "Dan's Rock Overlook Before Dawn," *I-70 Review*, Summer/Fall 2020

Poetry: "Unlike Brian Wilson," *Poet Sounds Anthology*, Lo-Fi Poetry, Feb 2020

Poetry: "Praying for Warm Lips," *Evansville Review*, Volume 29, 2019

Poetry: "Easter Eggs" and "Shadow," *Carolina Quarterly*, Spring/Summer 2017

Poetry: "After Nine Years Vegan," *Into the Void Magazine*, January 2017

Poetry: "Koka Kola," *Clash by Night Anthology*, Lo-Fi Poetry, May 2015

Poetry: "Compute Friendship" and "Empires," *Bittersweet*, Spring 2009

Poetry: "Writing on Our Palms" and "The Palette," *Bittersweet*, Spring 2008

Creative Nonfiction: "Get Eternal: Black Metal & Bible Studies," *The Hopkins Review*, forthcoming

Creative Nonfiction: "Endless Feedback," *Music Gigs Gone Wrong Anthology*, Paycock Press, 2022

Creative Nonfiction: "The Thing I Don't Understand," *Phoebe*, 47.2, Spring 2018

Translation: "Fever Fantasy (I)" by Matthias Politycki, German, *Moon City Review*, 2023

Translation: "Fever Fantasy (II)" by Matthias Politycki, German, *Moon City Review*, 2023

Comic: "Haunted," art by Edie Quinn, *The Rumpus*, Oct 2023

Comic: "What They Don't Tell You about Traveling Back in Time," art by Edie Quinn, *Sparx Mega-Zine*, Issue 3, Fall 2022

Pedagogy Essay: "Flash, The Heart of the Story, and Index Cards," *SmokeLong Quarterly Blog*, March 2020

Craft Essay: "Shortcut to Characterization: Music," *Black Fox Literary Magazine Online*, July 2017

Craft Essay: "Writing in Silence," *The Creative Writing MFA and Beyond*, November 2015

Book Review: "The Most Beautiful Dialect, Review of Weike Wang's *Chemistry*," *Aquifer: The Florida Review Online*, September 2017

STAGE WRITING

Play: *Haunted*, Directed by Rob Smith, Moores Opera House, March 2020

Musical Collaboration: *Houston Brass Quintet Presents: The DiverCity Project*, conducted by Stephen Bachicha, Hotel Icon, Houston, TX, July 2020

Musical Collaboration: *Houston Symphony Presents: Resilient Sounds*, conducted by Jimmy López Bellido, White Oak Music Hall, Houston, TX, June 2019

AWARDS AND HONORS

Wigleaf Top 50 Very Short Fictions, 2023

Winner, Inprint Marion Barthelme Prize in Creative Writing, 2021

Winner, Inprint Donald Barthelme Memorial Prize in Fiction, 2020

Winner, 2019 Fiction Contest, *Into the Void Magazine*, 2019

Winner, 2019 New Writer Award, *Sequestrum*, 2019

Winner, Inprint Donald Barthelme Memorial Prize in Nonfiction, 2019

Winner, Prose of the Year Award, *Backbone Mountain Review*, 2014

Second Place, Into the Void Fiction Prize, *Into The Void Magazine*, 2018

Nomination, Best American Short Stories, *Cleaver*, 2023

Nomination, Pushcart Prize, *The Pinch*, 2023

Nomination, Pushcart Prize, *Into the Void Magazine*, 2020

Nomination, Best of the Net, *Into the Void Magazine*, 2020

Nomination, Best of the Net, *Into the Void Magazine*, 2019

Nomination, K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, University of Central Florida, 2016

Nomination, AWP Intro Journals Award, Fiction, University of Central Florida, 2016

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts Fellowship, 2021
Creative Writing Program Research Grant, University of Houston, 2018
Teaching Assistantship, University of Houston, 2017-present
Inprint Jesse H and Mary Gibbs Jones Fellowship, Inprint, 2017
Cullen Recruitment Fellowship, University of Houston, 2017
Graduate Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston, 2017
Teaching Assistantship, University of Central Florida, 2015-2017

WORKSHOPS

Scholarship Recipient, Napa Valley Writer Conference, Napa Valley, CA, Summer 2021. Lan Samantha Chang.
General Contributor, Tin House Summer Workshop, Portland, OR, Summer 2018. Wells Tower.
General Contributor, New York State Summer Writers Institute at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, Summer 2017. Amy Hempel & Paul Harding.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Presenter: *Creative Writing Across the Curriculum: A Creative Writing Approach to First Year Writing*, Creative Writing Studies Conference, online, October 2023
Presenter: *The Transformative Power of Creative Writing Pedagogy*, Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English Conference, Alva, Oklahoma, October 2023
Presenter: *Absurdism, Surrealism, and The Supernatural in Flash Fiction*, SmokeLong Afterglow Webinars, online, September 2023
Panel Participant: *The Hunt for the MFA*, Defunkt Magazine, online, July 2020
Panel Participant: *Raise Your Game: Applying Game Narrative Strategies to Writing Fiction*, AWP Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 2020
Masterclass Lecture: *Lessons from a Dungeon Master: How Gaming Helped Me Be a Better Writer*, Boldface Conference for Emerging Writers, Houston, Texas, May 2019
Panel Participant: *Applying to Grad School: Student and Faculty Perspectives*, Boldface Conference for Emerging Writers, Houston, Texas, May 2019

Event Organizer and Participant, *Two Mediums in One Artist: Life as a Musician and Author*,
AWP Conference, Tampa, Florida, March 2018

EDITORSHIPS

SmokeLong Quarterly

Submissions editor, 2023-present

North Carolina Literary Review

Editorial Board, 2022-2023

Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Online Nonfiction Editor, 2021-2022

Online Fiction Editor, 2019-2021

Assistant Online Fiction Editor, 2019

Assistant Fiction Editor, 2018

Reader, 2017- 2018

Backbone Mountain Review, Frostburg, MD

Prose Editor, 2015-2016

READINGS

Carl Albert State College, Ponteau, OK, April 17, 2024

Creativity Fest, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, OK, April 4, 2024

SmokeLong Editors Reading, Online, March 3, 2024

AWP UH Reception Reading, Nighthawk, Kansas City, MO, February 8, 2024

Clever Magazine Issue 42 Reading, online, July 2023

Loose Cannons with SmokeLong Quarterly, Unexpected Productions, Seattle, WA, March 2023

AWP The Lit Reading Series, Blarney's Stone Pub, Seattle, WA, March 2023

ECU Reading Series, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, February 2023

Gulf Coast Reading Series, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX, February 2022

Napa Valley Writer Conference Participant Reading, Napa Valley, CA, August 2021

Defunkt Magazine Featured Reading, online, June 2021

Inprint Prize Winner Reading, online, June 2021

Boldface Conference Workshop Leader Reading, online, May 2021

Gulf Coast Reading Series, online, February 2021

Defunkt Magazine: The Hunt for the MFA Reading and Panel, online, July 2020

The Great Indoors Reading Series, online, May 2020

SmokeLong Quarterly Zoom reading, online, April 2020

Defunkt Magazine Launch Party, Melange Creperie, Houston, TX, March 2020

Gulf Coast Reading Series, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX, October 2019

Low Turn Out Reading Series, Houston, TX, September 2019

Defunkt Magazine Launch Party, Melange Creperie, Houston, TX, July 2019

Boldface Conference Faculty Reading, University of Houston, Houston, TX, May 2019

AWP Flash Bonanza Graduate Student Reading, Luck Lab, Portland, OR, March 2019

Inprint Prize Winner Reading, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX, March 2019

Poison Pen Reading Series, Poison Girl, Houston, TX, November, 2018

Tin House Workshop Participant Reading, Reed College, Portland, OR, July 2018

Aura Ensemble and Gulf Coast Journal, Moore's Opera House, Houston, TX, April 2018

Poetry and Prose Reading Series, University of Houston, Houston, TX, September 2017

Gulf Coast Reading Series, Rudyard's pub, Houston, TX, September 2017

Student Reading, The Surrey Inn, Saratoga Spring, NY, July 2017

Ghost Parachute Reading and Art Show, Vinyl Arts Bar, Orlando, FL, July 2017

Art vs Art, Vinyl Arts Bar, Orlando, FL, May 2017

Graduate Reading, Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts, Orlando, FL, April 2017

There Will Be Words, The Gallery at Avalon Island, Orlando, FL, December 2016

PARCELS Reading Series, Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts, Winter Park, FL, October 2016

PARCELS Reading Series, Stardust Video and Coffee, Winter Park, FL, November 2015

Clash By Night reading, Atomic Books, Baltimore, MD, June 2015

Clash By Night reading, Brillobox, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2015

Little Patuxent Review Launch, Oliver's Carriage House, Columbia, MD, June 2015

Bittersweet Magazine Launch, Main Street Books, Frostburg, MD, May 2009

Bittersweet Magazine Launch, Main Street Books, Frostburg, MD, May 2008

SELECTED ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Faculty Editor, Alabaster Echoes Literary Magazine, 2023-present

Judge, Carl Albert State College Poetry Contest, 2024

Reviewer, Grand Micro Fiction Award, 2023

Editorial Board member, North Carolina Literary Review, Greenville, NC, 2022-2023

Writing Instructor, Inprint Writers Workshop, Houston, TX, 2019-2022

Writing Instructor, Writers in the Schools, Houston, TX, 2018-2020

Creative Writing Representative, Graduate English Society, University of Houston, 2018-2019

Writing Instructor, Creative Writing Camp, Houston, TX, 2018

Reviewer, Jeanette Morgan Endowment, 2018

Vice President, Graduate Writers Association, University of Central Florida, 2016-2017

Editor, Marketing Committee, University of Central Florida, 2015-2017

Writing Instructor, The Literary Arts Partnership, University of Central Florida, 2016

Writing Instructor, Frostburg Center for Literary Arts, Frostburg State University, 2011 and 2014

Mentor, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Cumberland, MD, 2012-2013

Site Supervisor, Read to Succeed Tutoring, Americorps, Frostburg, MD 2009-2011

English and Writing Tutor, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD 2007-2009

CERTIFICATIONS

Training Course for Teaching Online, Department of English, University of Houston

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Creative Writing Studies Organization

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English

REFERENCES

Matthew Lambert, English Department, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
mmlambert@nwosu.edu, (580) 327-8428

David Vaughan, English Department, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
dlvaughan@nwosu.edu, (580) 327-8470

Chitra Divakaruni, English Department, University of Houston
chitradivakaruni@hotmail.com, (713) 320-5374