

Michael Pontacoloni

Department of English
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Area of Specialization: Creative Writing – Poetry

Areas of Competence: Composition, American Literature

Education

PhD University of Mississippi, 2024

English, Creative Writing

Dissertation: *Apartments: Poems*

Committee: Derrick Harriell & Cristin Ellis, co-chairs; Dan Stout, Beth Ann Fennelly

MFA University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2015

Creative Writing, Poetry

Thesis: *Dead Heat: Poems*

Committee: Stuart Dischell (Adviser), David Roderick

MAT University of Connecticut, 2011

Curriculum and Instruction, English Language Arts

Initial License to teach English in Connecticut

BA University of Connecticut, 2009

English, Geography

Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Wallace Stevens Poetry Award

Academic Appointments

Herbert Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Tennessee, 2024 - Present

- Endowed lectureship within English Department
- Teach three courses per semester, including full first-year composition sequence with emphasis on multimodal communication and research
- Consult at university writing center, primarily with students applying for graduate school and medical residency.
- Support writing center administration through outreach projects, including communications and workshop guidance.

Teaching Experience and Courses Taught

University of Tennessee Knoxville

As Primary Instructor:

ENGL 101: First Year Composition Fall 2024

University of Mississippi

As Primary Instructor:

WRT 102: Academic Writing II Spring 2022

WRT 101: Academic Writing I Fall 2021

University of Connecticut

As Primary Instructor:

ENGL 2401: Poetry Spring 2021

ENGL 2701: Creative Writing I Spring 2021

ENGL 2401: Poetry Fall 2020

ENGL 2701: Creative Writing I Fall 2020

ENGL 2701: Creative Writing I Spring 2020

University of Hartford

As Primary Instructor:

WRT 111W: Academic Writing II (2 Sections) Spring 2021

WRT 111W: Academic Writing I (2 Sections) Fall 2020

WRT 111W: Academic Writing II (2 Sections) Spring 2020

WRT 110W: Academic Writing I (2 Sections) Fall 2019

WRT 110W: Academic Writing I Spring, 2019

WRT 111W: Academic Writing II Spring, 2019

ENG 140: Introduction to Literature Fall 2018

University of Saint Joseph

As Primary Instructor:

ENG 104: The Art of Effective Writing (2 sections) Fall, 2020

ENG 104: The Art of Effective Writing (2 Sections) Fall, 2018

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

As Primary Instructor:

ENGL 101: College Writing Spring, 2015

ENGL 101: College Writing Fall, 2014

Publications and Projects

Poems

<i>Southern Review</i>	“New Home”	2024
<i>Hopkins Review</i>	“Homebuyers Want Granite”	2024
<i>New Ohio Review</i>	“Annual Business Trip”	2024
<i>New Ohio Review</i>	“Mouse in the Kitchen”	2024
<i>Southern Review</i>	“Antique Map of Dorchester Neck”	2022

<i>Southwest Review</i>	“Another Gertie the Dinosaur Misbehaves”	2022
<i>Four Way Review</i>	“Notice of Removal”	2020
<i>Meridian</i>	“The Last Diving Horse Show in America”	2019
<i>New Ohio Review</i>	“Wethersfield”	2019
<i>Cream City Review</i>	“Another Subject of the Patterson-Gimlin Film”	2019
<i>Cincinnati Review</i>	“Doodler”	2019
<i>Cincinnati Review</i>	“Sonic Boom”	2019
<i>Denver Quarterly</i>	“Another Ed White at Splashdown”	2019
<i>Booth</i>	“Another Beverly C. Wetherald Hides from the Ranger”	2018
<i>Copper Nickel</i>	“Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory”	2018
<i>Zone 3</i>	“Another Map of the Adirondacks”	2018
<i>Minnesota Review</i>	“Another Steve Nesbitt Goes to the Mall”	2018
<i>Waccamaw</i>	“Transit”	2018
<i>Worcester Review</i>	“U-Haul”	2018
<i>Forklift, Ohio</i>	“Paint”	2017
<i>Greensboro Review</i>	“Another Maria Mitchell Reads the Forecast”	2017
<i>Mississippi Review</i>	“Another Tipped Cow”	2017
<i>New Ohio Review</i>	“Men’s League as January”	2017
<i>Smartish Pace</i>	“Neighbors”	2017
<i>Soundings East</i>	“I am an Unwilling Asteroid”	2017
<i>Noctua</i>	“Postcard”	2017
<i>Pleiades</i>	“Another Wayne Gretzky Behind the Net”	2016
<i>Colorado Review</i>	“The Students Celebrate a Basketball Championship”	2015
<i>Harpur Palate</i>	“Like Quills Upon the Fretful”	2015
<i>Tupelo Quarterly</i>	“Stack”	2014
<i>Tupelo Quarterly</i>	“Boston Calls me to Love”	2014

Awards & Recognitions

Fellowships and Scholarships

Tennessee Williams Scholar, Sewanee Writers Conference	2018
Artist’s Grant, Vermont Studio Center	2017
Hester Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Greensboro	2013

Contests & Prizes

Akron Poetry Prize, Semifinalist	U. of Akron Press	2024
Brittingham Prize, Semifinalist	U. of Wisconsin Press	2024
Oran Robert Perry Burke Award	<i>Southern Review</i>	2022
Meridian Editors Prize	<i>Meridian</i>	2019
Snowbound Chapbook Contest, Finalist	Tupelo Press	2019
Sunken Garden Chapbook Contest, Runner up	Tupelo Press	2019
Diagram Chapbook Contest, Finalist	New Michigan Press	2019
Erskine J. Prize, Third Place	<i>Smartish Pace</i>	2017
Mississippi Review Prize, Finalist	<i>Mississippi Review</i>	2017

Presentations, Readings, and Other Works

Conference Papers

“‘This Never Happens in a Stevens Poem’: Jay Hopler, Wallace Stevens, and Humor.”

- Panel titled Wallace Stevens and Contemporary Poetry.
- MLA Conference, 2024. Philadelphia PA

“‘Caught Up in the Century’s Anxiety’: Blur and Satire of the 18th Century.”

- Panel titled Cool Britannia, Retro Revivals, and the Poetics of Pop.
- MLA Conference, 2024. Philadelphia PA

“Chess Metaphor and the Black Plague.”

- Panel titled Black Death and the Birth of English Vernacular
- Graduate Conference, University of Mississippi, 2023. Oxford, MS

“Stephen Pedalists: The Bicycle in the Early Fiction of James Joyce.”

- Panel titled Irish Modernisms
- Graduate Conference, University of Mississippi, 2023. Oxford, MS

Readings

MissReads, March 2024, Oxford MS

Southern Review Awards Ceremony. August 2023, Online.

New Ohio Review Issue Release and Reading. AWP, 2019. Portland, OR

Tennessee Williams Scholars Reading. Sewanee Writers Conference, 2018. Sewanee, TN

Guest Lectures and Visits

“Reading Material Culture in Alice Walker’s ‘Everyday Use’”

- ENG 224, American Literature Since the Civil War, at the request of Dustin Parsons
- October 2023. Oxford, Mississippi

Visiting Poet in Residence

- Visiting writer at fine arts magnet high school
- April 2022. Lakeland, Florida

Book Reviews

Consider the Oyster by Blanche Brown *Adroit* 2021

Travelers Leaving for the City by Ed Skoog *Adroit* 2020

The Abridged History of Rainfall by Jay Hopler *storySouth* 2017

Works in Progress

Apartments

- A book-length manuscript of poems currently submitted for publication.

“Really the Last of the Dodos: Race, Extinction, and Biopolitics in *Porky in Wackyland*.”

- Scholarly article prepared for publication

Administrative Experience

Undergraduate Outreach Graduate Assistant, University of Mississippi,

Outreach lead for student in English department. Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

- Collaborate with Department Head and Director of Undergraduate Studies to provide undergraduates with opportunities for enrichment and fellowship.
- Organize and host events for undergraduates, including open mics, movie nights, and more.
- Publicize and solicit applications for new Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.
- Engage with area high schools to raise awareness of new degree program.

Additional Teaching Experience

University of Mississippi

As Teaching Assistant:

ENG 223: American Literature Before 1865

Spring 2023

ENG 224: American Literature After 1865

Fall 2022

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

As Teaching Aide

ENG 333: Southern Writers

Spring 2014

Instructor, University of Mississippi Early College Experience

Lead Instructor

- Create all curriculum and perform all instruction for weeklong full-day intensive summer creative writing program.
- Engage with parents and staff to maintain relationships and recruit new students.

Amity Regional High School

English Teacher

- Woodbridge, CT. August 2011-June 2013

- Teach American Literature, Composition, and Creative Writing.

Editorial Experience

Editorial Assistant, Greensboro Review

Support editing, production, and distribution of nationally recognized literary magazine.

Greensboro, NC. August 2013 – May 2014

- Communicate with contributors and subscribers.
- Help put on readings from visiting authors, including tech set-up and marketing.

Poetry Reader, *Yalobusha Review*

August 2021 – May 2021

Contribute ratings and feedback for literary journal at University of Mississippi

Poetry Reader, *Adroit*

June 2018 – August 2021

Contribute ratings and feedback for popular online poetry journal.

Professional Experience

Marketing Manager, RateGravity Inc.

Boston, MA. July 2017 – March 2018

Grow user base and develop brand awareness for seed round mortgage technology startup.

- Manage and execute email marketing campaigns, social media, and paid advertising.
- Educate and support clients and users through in person training and online content development.

Marketing Manager, OwnerAide Inc.

Hartford, CT. July 2015 – June 2017

Grow user base and develop brand awareness for real estate networking software startup.

- Manage 2 full-time employees.
- Manage and execute email marketing campaigns, social media, and paid advertising.
- Educate and support clients through in person training and online content.