

Stephen Roger Powers

Gordon State College
419 College Dr.
Barnesville, GA 30204

spowers@gordonstate.edu

Education

Ph.D. in English, December 2006

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Concentration: creative writing (poetry and fiction)

Preliminary examination fields: the Southern Gothic, African American literature,
postcolonial literature, contemporary American poetry

Advisor: Dr. Sheila Roberts

Committee: Dr. Anne Davis Basting, Dr. George Makana Clark, Dr. Maurice Kilwein
Guevara, Dr. Jon McKenzie

M.A. in English, May 2000

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Concentration: creative writing (fiction)

Thesis director: Dr. Thomas Bontly

B.A. in English and German (with a minor in French), August 1998

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Teaching Positions

Gordon State College

University System of Georgia
Barnesville, GA

Professor of English
August 2017-present

Associate Professor of English
August 2012-July 2017

Assistant Professor of English

August 2007-July 2012

Courses:

Humanities Colloquia:

Hunter S. Thompson
Middle American Gothic: Sherwood Anderson, Katherine Dunn, and Donald Ray
Pollock
A Person Explained: Memoir & Creative Nonfiction
Writing Short Fiction
Writing the Memoir
Introduction to Creative Writing

English Courses:

Special Topics in Literature and Literary Studies: BFI Top Films
Special Topics in Literature and Literary Studies: Contemporary American Short
Stories
Special Topics in Literature and Literary Studies: The Short Stories of F. Scott
Fitzgerald
Special Topics in Literature and Literary Studies: Southern Gothic Authors
Postcolonial Literature
African American Literature
Creative Writing: Poetry
Creative Writing: Fiction
Creative Writing
African American Literature II
American Literature II
American Literature I
World Literature I
Composition II
Composition I: Contemporary Issues in Nursing (Learning Community Course)
Composition I
Support for English Composition

Study Abroad Courses:

Creative Writing: Writing About Travel. USG Goes Global. Waterford Institute of
Technology. Waterford, Ireland. Summer 2019.
World Literature II: The Postcolonial Struggle. USG Goes Global. Waterford
Institute of Technology. Waterford, Ireland. Summer 2019.

Marian College of Fond du Lac (now Marian University)

Fond du Lac, WI

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

August 2006-May 2007

Lecturer

August 2005-June 2006

Courses:

Advanced Composition
Modern and Contemporary American Literature
Professional Composition and Research Writing
American Literature from 1865 to 1920
Research Writing Across the Curriculum
Masterpieces of Western Literature
Introduction to Literary Genres
English Composition
Review of English

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 1998-May 2006

Courses:

Introduction to African American Literature: Contemporary African American Writers
American Short Stories
Writing Fiction: Structure and Technique
Introduction to Creative Writing
The Literary Imagination: How to Read and Write About Literature
College Writing and Research
Introduction to College Writing

Publications

Poetry Collections:

Hail My Attention Kindly. Salmon Poetry, 2024.

All Seats Fifty Cents. Salmon Poetry, 2019.

Hello, Stephen. Salmon Poetry, 2014.

The Follower's Tale. Salmon Poetry, 2009. (10th Anniversary Edition published in 2019.)

Short Story Collection:

Highway Speed: Stories. Closet Skeleton Press, 2019.

Poetry, Short Fiction, Non-fiction, and Encyclopedia Entries:

Poems published individually in over a hundred anthologies and journals, including:

Best of the Net 2006 (Sundress)

Even the Daybreak: 35 Years of Salmon Poetry (Salmon Poetry)

Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology (Madville)

Rabbit Ears: TV Poems (NYQ Books)

Red, White, and Blues: Poets on the Promise of America (University of Iowa Press)

Stone, River, Sky: An Anthology of Georgia Poems (Negative Capability Press)

The Southern Poetry Anthology Volume V: Georgia (Texas Review Press)

32 Poems

Cimarron Review

Copper Nickel

Dislocate

Natural Bridge

Shenandoah

Smartish Pace

Short fiction published in:

Eureka Literary Magazine

Bryant Literary Review

Marginalia

Main Street Rag

Sangam Literary Magazine

Southern Gothic

The Licking River Review

Nonfiction and encyclopedia entries published in:

the museum of americana: a literary review

North Clare Local

The Woody Creeker

Make 'em Laugh! American Humorists of the 20th and 21st Centuries (Greenwood)

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature (Greenwood)

Teaching and Service Related to Creative Writing

Judge. *Impressions* (Eureka College Literary & Visual Arts Journal) fiction and poetry contest. 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Judge. Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Triad Contest. 2010.

Visiting writer. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. 15-16 March 2010. Conducted two master classes for creative writing graduate students and presented a reading of poetry.

Judge and workshop leader. Creative Writing Competition (poetry and fiction). Gordon State College annual Academic Contest for visiting high school students. October 2008, October 2009, October 2010, October 2011, October 2012, and October 2013.

Visiting writer. Ripon College. 3 March 2008. Conducted a workshop and presented a reading of poetry.

Faculty advisor for *Driftwood* and *Blackshear*, the student literary magazines of Gordon State College. Fall 2007-Spring 2016.

Academic Contest Committee. Gordon State College. August 2007-October 2007. Assisted with organizing annual academic competition and events for visiting high school students. Also judged Creative Writing Competition (fiction and poetry) and conducted workshops.

Foot of the Lake Poetry Collective. Fond du Lac, WI. Fall 2006-Spring 2007. Involved with organization and promotion of monthly poetry readings by local and national poets at the Windhover Center for the Arts.

Visiting Writers Committee. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Fall 2003-Spring 2007. Helped organize readings and talks with visiting writers David Lehman, Cornelius Eady, Maxine Chernoff, Russell Edson, Carolyn Ferrell, Richard Bausch, and others.

Afro-Academic Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics: A NAACP Sponsored Program. Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Milwaukee, WI. 16 March 2002. Judged high school poetry and performance competition.

The Grand Avenue Club. Milwaukee, WI. Spring 2001. Planned and conducted a semester-long series of creative writing workshops for adults with mental illness.

Graduate Creative Writing Student-Faculty Reading Series Committee. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Fall 2000-Spring 2007.

Organizational Committee. Writing from Native Communities—Native Writing Communities Conference. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Spring 2002.

Time Slips (an inter-generational, interactive storytelling project with people with Alzheimer's, coordinated by Anne Davis Basting). St. Camillus Adult Day Care and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Fall 1998-Spring 1999. Helped facilitate creative storytelling workshops for adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Writing Residencies

The Salmon Bookshop & Literary Centre. Ennistymon, Ireland. July 2016-August 2016, June 2018, March 2019, July 2019-August 2019, March 2022, July 2022, and June 2023.

Editing Experience

Editorial assistant. *A Call to Nursing: Nurses' Stories about Challenge and Commitment*, edited by Paula Sergi and Geraldine Gorman. Kaplan, 2009.

Assistant editor. *Cream City Review*. Department of English. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Spring 1999-Fall 2002.

Awards and Honors

Georgia Author of the Year (full-length poetry category) nomination for *All Seats Fifty Cents*. 2020.

Emily Stauffer Poetry Prize. 2014.

Griffin Poetry Prize nomination for *The Follower's Tale*. 2010.

Pushcart Prize nomination for "Sister Melvina." *Marginalia*. 2009.

Honorable Mention. Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize. 2008.

Pushcart Prize nomination for "Tonight Near Sunset Crater." *Rock Salt Plum Review*. 2008.

Notable Story of 2007 for "The Tennessee Scrambler." *storySouth* 2008 Million Writers Award for Fiction. Nominated by *Southern Gothic*.

First Place. *Touchstone* Poetry Contest. 2007.

Shenandoah nomination for *Best New Poets 2007* anthology.

Catfish Prize for Poetry. Catfish Poetry. 2005.

Semifinalist for the Verse Prize. Verse Press. 2004.

Academy of American Poets Prize. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. 2004 and 2006.

Selected Reading Venues

AWP Bookfair.

Bowery Poetry. New York, NY.

Ennistymon Courthouse Gallery. Ennistymon, Ireland.

Eureka College. Featured poet. Third Annual Writers Festival. March 2014.

Franklin College.

Georgia Center for the Book

Gordon College Speakers Series.

Hotel Milwaukee. Aired on Wisconsin Public Radio and A&E Satellite Radio.

The Joaquin Miller Poetry Series.

Mount Ida College.

Pigment Art Studio. Washington, DC.

Poets Cafe. Aired on Wisconsin Public Television.

RTÉ Radio.

Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts. Fond du Lac, WI.

Wave Books Poetry Bus Tour.

The White House. Limerick, Ireland.

Wild and Precious Life Series.

Woodland Pattern Book Center. Milwaukee, WI.

Conference Presentations

Panelist. *Taking Students Where They've Never Been: Leading Study Away, from Paris, France, to Paris, Texas*. 4th Annual Student Success Summit: Keeping the Momentum Going. Gordon State College. Barnesville, GA. 13 August 2019.

Panelist. *Creative Writing Courses: A Pathway to Student Success in Composition Courses and Post-graduate Employment*. Teaching Matters: Join the Conversation. The Twelfth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference for Teachers of Undergraduates. Gordon State College. Barnesville, GA. 4-5 April 2014.

Panelist. *Student Perception of Educational Purpose and Academic Reading Habits in an Introductory English Literature Course*. The SoTL Commons: A Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. Georgia Southern University. Statesboro, GA. 9-11 March 2011.

“Small Revenge in Words: Settling Scores with Writing.” Panelist. *Literary Laughter: Humor in Fiction Writing*. The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Annual Conference. Denver, CO. 7-10 April 2010.

“Pages versus Screens: The Place of Literature in the Digital Age.” Panelist. *Required (?) Reading: Some Thoughts on the Future of Books in the Classroom*. Southeast Coastal Conference on Language & Literatures (SECCLL). Georgia Southern University. Statesboro, GA. 1-2 April 2010.

“Twin Jack: Surreal Erotica.” Panelist. *The Profane Prairie: Controversial Stories from the Upper Midwest*. Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention. Philadelphia, PA. 27-30 December 2009.

“Using Literature: Rewriting What’s Already Published.” Panelist. *The Place of Literature in the Creative Writing Classroom*. South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML A) Annual Convention. Louisville, KY. 7-9 November 2008.

“You Gave Me a D? I Thought You Were Supposed to Be Fun!” Teaching Matters: But What Matters Most? The Sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference for Teachers of Undergraduates. Gordon State College. Barnesville, GA. 28-29 March 2008.

“Teaching Students to Write About What They Love.” Keynote Presenter. Milwaukee Area Academic Alliance in English. Milwaukee, WI. 5 May 2007.

“A Northern Poet Writing South of the Mason-Dixon Line.” Wisconsin Writers Conference. University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County. Baraboo, WI. 4-5 June 2004.

“Fixing the Minnow: Using *Gilligan’s Island* to Teach Revision.” Panelist. *Teaching Revision: How to Practice What We Preach*. The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. 24-27 March 2004.

“Chasing Dolly: Literature and Creative Writing in the Shadow of Pop Culture Icons.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Joint National Conference. New Orleans, LA. 16-19 April 2003.

“Mad at Herself: Dolly Parton, Burlesque, and Anger.” Women and Creativity 5. Marquette University. Milwaukee, WI. 27-29 March 2003.

Additional Service and Committees

Post-Tenure Review Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2023-present.

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Reorganization and Committee Representation. Gordon State College. Fall 2019-Spring 2020.

Shared Governance Ad Hoc Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

International Studies Council. Gordon State College. Fall 2017-present.

Promotion and Tenure Chairs Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Intellectual Property Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2016-Spring 2017.

ENGL 1101 Course-Specific Subcommittee. First Things First Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

English Curriculum Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2015-Spring 2017.

Mentor to new faculty. Gordon State College. Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Promotion and Tenure Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2012-Spring 2013, Fall 2015-Spring 2016, Fall 2017-Spring 2018 (chair), Fall 2018, and Fall 2019.

Faculty Grievance Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2012-Summer 2013, and Fall 2022-present.

Undergraduate Research Symposium Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2011-present.

Academic Policy Committee. Gordon Sate College. Fall 2011-Spring 2012.

Baccalaureate English Program Committee. Gordon Sate College. Spring 2009-Fall 2010.

Faculty Welfare Committee. Gordon State College. Fall 2008-Spring 2011 (Faculty Senate representative), Fall 2016-Spring 2017 (chair), Fall 2017-Spring 2019, Fall 2019-Spring 2020 (Faculty Senate representative), and Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Faculty Senate. Gordon State College. Fall 2008-Spring 2011, and Fall 2019-Spring 2022.

Search committees at Gordon State College: Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2010-Spring 2011, Summer 2013 (chair), and Summer 2015.

Scorer. Regents' Writing Test. University System of Georgia. Fall 2007-Spring 2011.

Academic advisor. Gordon State College. Fall 2007-present. Advise approximately 10-30 students (English majors, learning support students, and general studies students) each semester.

Languages

German: Proficient speaking, writing, and reading ability.

French: Advanced speaking, writing, and reading ability.

Spanish: Basic speaking, writing, and reading ability.

Japanese: Basic speaking, writing, and reading ability.

Professional Memberships

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)