

Sharla Yates

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www.SharlaYates.com

EDUCATION

Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, 2016

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

One year toward a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Poetry, 2007

Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, Master of Arts in Writing, Poetry, 2006

George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon Bachelor of Arts in Writing and Literature, 2003

Umpqua Community College, Roseburg, Oregon Associate of Arts in General Education, 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Chapbook

What I Would Say if We Were To Drown Tonight, Stranded Oak Press, 2017; finalist for the Villa Paper Nautilus Contest

Poems

"When We Met," *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, 2017

"Delta," *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*, Spring 2016

"Prayer," *Hartskill Review*, Winter, 2015

"Composed," *The Boiler Journal*, Winter, 2015

Turning the Corner, Manuscript, Portland State University, 2006

"Naivete,'" *The Lynx Eye*, Winter, 2004

"On the Day You Were Born," *The Synergist*, 2004

"when i lie completely still," *Albatross*, Issue 15, 2003

Creative Nonfiction

"Address," was named a finalist for the 2015 *Columbia Journal of Arts* nonfiction award; finalist for the 2016 Penelope Niven Award in Creative Nonfiction; published in *Fifth Wednesday Journal*, Fall 2016, and *Short Reads* 2024.

Fiction

"Letters To The Fifth Floor," *Shadowgraph Quarterly*, Spring 2016 "Black White And Red All Over," *Pretty Owl Poetry*, Spring 2016 "Behold," *Poetry City, USA*, Fall 2016

"Two Truths and A Lie," *Blue Lyra Review*, October 2016 Reviews

"Book Review: Small Batch: Pickles, Cheese, Chocolate, Spirits, And The Return Of Artisanal Foods," *The Fourth River Journal*, 2015

"Eat Your Meat," *The Fourth River Journal*, 2015

"Surfacing," *The Fourth River Journal*, 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CRAFT TALKS (*Online*) | *January 2023 – Present*

Founder, Host, Co-curator

- Host weekly educational webinars for creative writers.
- Innovate and plan programming.
- Draft schedules, marketing materials, course descriptions, and newsletters/emails.
- Recruit, coach, and manage presenters.
- Maintain and update website pages, contracts, and records.
- Evaluate the success of educational programs against target metrics, including student experiences, enrollment patterns, and budgetary numbers.
- Review all programming materials, edit videos and transcripts, and distribute materials.
- Manage the Discord community.
- Market all programming on social media and through sequenced emails and newsletters.

Creative Nonfiction Foundation (*Pittsburgh, PA*) | *2017–2022*

Director of Education

- Managed all major educational outreach and programming areas, including online classes, self-guided courses, live workshops, and webinars.
Drafted course schedules, instructor and student guides, tutorial videos, grants, marketing materials, course descriptions, and newsletters.
Collaborated with staff and instructors to determine the best content delivery methods and developed educational programs.
- Provided support for all programs, including instructor-led, self-guided, webinars, and Zoom workshops.

University of Phoenix (*Online*) | *2013–2017*

Campus Faculty Assessment Liaison

- Provided support to the Online Humanities Department in implementing student learning outcome assessment initiatives.
- Served as a resource for faculty, staff, administrators, and students on outcomes assessment.
- Facilitated campus discussions and training sessions on student learning assessment.
- Worked with the College Dean to implement programmatic student learning outcomes assessment and University Learning Goal (ULG) assessment initiatives.
- Coordinated and organized the annual Learning Outcomes Assessment Report with recommendations for improving student learning.
- Participated in regional meetings and institutional Assessment Conferences.

Portland Community College (*Rock Creek Campus, OR*) | *April 2012 – July 2012*

Reading and Writing Center Tutor

- Provided one-on-one support to students completing English-language writing assignments, including essays, research papers, and reports.
- Helped students break down and understand assignments.
- Offered guidance on writer's block, organizing and synthesizing reading assignments, working with sources, and revising writing assignments.
- Followed up with students on progress and goal setting.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- **University of Pittsburgh (2024–Present)** | Faculty, English Department
- **Southern New Hampshire University (2016–Present)** | Faculty, Master of Arts in Creative Writing
- **Chatham University (2015–2017)** | Adjunct Instructor, English Language Program
- **Chatham University (2015–2016)** | Graduate Fellow, Words Without Walls
- **Portland Community College (2012–2013)** | Adjunct Instructor, English Department
- **Clark College (2011–2012)** | Co-Director, Service and Leadership in the Community
- **Mt. Hood Community College (2010–2014)** | Adjunct Instructor, Humanities Department
- **Clark College (2010–2011)** | Student Program Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa
- **Clark College (2009–2010)** | Instructor, Mature Learning Program
- **Clark College (2007–2014)** | Adjunct Instructor, English and Humanities Department

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh | 2024–Present

- **2251 ENGWRT 520: Introduction to Fiction**
- **2254 ENGWRT 400: Introduction to Creative Writing**

Southern New Hampshire University (Online) | 2016–Present

- **ENG542: The Editor** – Understanding editorial roles in the writing and publishing process.
- **ENG533: Genres: Fantasy and Sci-Fi** – Exploring genre conventions and professional identity.
- **ENG530: Non-fiction Fundamentals** – Examining creative nonfiction genres.
- **ENG529: Fiction Fundamentals** – Mastering key fiction elements.
- **ENG528: Poetry Foundation** – Analyzing poetry craft and major literary movements.
- **ENG510: Studying the Craft** – Analyzing storytelling techniques in selected texts.

Chatham University (Pittsburgh, PA) | 2016–2017

- **ELI094: Writing for Success** – Academic essay writing for non-native speakers.
- **ELP073: High Intermediate Writing** – Academic and professional writing skills.

Words Without Walls (Chatham University) | 2015–2016

- **VoiceCATCH** – Weekly creative writing workshop for adult writers.

Portland Community College (Rock Creek, OR) | 2011–2012

- **WR121: English Composition** – College-level writing and rhetorical skills.

Mt. Hood Community College (Gresham, OR) | 2009–2013

- **WR122: Writing with Research** – Research and critical analysis.
- **WR121: English Composition** – Academic writing and argumentation.
- **WR115: Introduction to College Writing** – Writing fundamentals for first-year students.
- **WR090: Writing Skills: Paragraph to Essay** – Preparatory writing course.

Clark College (Vancouver, WA) | 2007–2012

- **ENG132: Introduction to Literature** – Analysis of short stories, poetry, and drama.
- **ENG131: Introduction to Poetry** – Study of poetic forms and literary analysis.
- **ENG126: Poetry Workshop** – Craft and critique of poetry.
- **ENGL101: English Composition I** – Expository and argumentative writing.
- **ENGL098: Writing Fundamentals** – Pre-college writing skills.
- **ENGL098: Writing Fundamentals with Service Learning** – Community engagement through writing.

Clark College (Vancouver, WA) | 2009–2010

- **Creative Writing Workshop** – Non-accredited workshop for adult learners.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conferences

- Attended **AWP Conference**, Los Angeles, CA (2025)
- Attended **AWP Conference**, Portland, OR (2019)
- Organizer, **Story Matters** (Heinz Endowment), Pittsburgh, PA (2018)
- Worked at **Creative Nonfiction Conference**, Pittsburgh, PA (2017, 2018)
- Young-Adult literary editor, **Conversations & Connections Conference**, Pittsburgh, PA (2017)
- Attended **Assessment Conference**, University of Phoenix (2014–2016)
- Attended **Quality Matters Conference**, Vancouver, WA (2013)
- Presented at **Continuums of Service Conference**, San Diego, CA (2011)

Professional Development

- Completed **Speaking in the Disciplines Seminar**, University of Pittsburgh (2025)
- Completed **Brightspace Training**, SNHU (2016)
- Completed **New Classroom Training**, University of Phoenix (2014)
- Participated in **Common Assignment Norming Session**, Clark College (2013)
- Completed **Canvas Online Training**, Clark College (2013)
- Completed **Moodle Training**, Clark College (2010)
- Completed **Faculty Academy: Blackboard 9.1 Training**, Mt. Hood Community College (2010)

Service to the Field

- Co-founder, **Quakers Lake Writing Retreat** (2017–2022)
- Judge, **Poetry Out Loud**, Pittsburgh, PA (2017)
- Editor & Designer, **Words Without Walls Anthology: Grey Skies** (2016)
- Founding Editor, **The Crawl Space** (2015–2016)
- Advisor, **Phi Theta Kappa**, Clark College (2011)

Professional Memberships

- **Association of Writers & Writing Programs** (2016–Present)
- **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** (2015–Present)