
Mike Chasar

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EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Education

- 2007 Ph.D., English, University of Iowa
Certificate in Book Studies, University of Iowa Center for the Book
- 2005 M.A., English, University of Iowa
- 1997 M.A., English (Creative Writing), Miami University
- 1993 B.A., English/humanities majors, French minor, Valparaiso University

Positions

- 2009- Assistant Professor of English, Willamette University
- 2007-2009 Visiting Assistant Professor of English, University of Iowa
- 2003-2006 Instructor, English and Rhetoric Departments, University of Iowa
- 2000-2002 Associate Educator, Salvador Dali Museum, St. Petersburg, Florida
- 1997-2000 Instructor of English, and Program Adviser in the University Honors Program, Miami University
- 1995-1997 Graduate Instructor of English, Miami University

COURSES TAUGHT

Willamette University

- Eng 441 Poetry of the Pacific Northwest
- Eng 361 20th-Century African American Poetry (American Ethnic Studies credit)
- Eng 354 The Modern Novel: Chicago (American Ethnic Studies credit)
- Eng 332 Intermediate Poetry Writing
- Eng 201 Close Reading
- Eng 135 Introduction to Creative Writing
- Eng 116 Literature of the Great Depression

College Colloquium: The Graphic Novel

University of Iowa

008:190	Topics in Book History: The Material of American Poetry Cross listed with University of Iowa Center for the Book
008:179	Literature and Society: Reading and Everyday Life
008:117	African American Literature After 1900 (6-week parent leave replacement)
008:058	American Novel After 1900: The Windy City
008:056	American Literary Classics: The Great Depression
008:055	20 th -Century American Poetry
008:053	Lyric Structures
08G:009	American Lives: Rebels and Outsiders
08G:001	The Interpretation of Literature
010:002	Second Semester Rhetoric
010:003	Accelerated Rhetoric

Miami University

Eng 111	College Composition
Eng 112	College Composition and Literature
IDS 159	Strength Through Cultural Diversity (Honors)

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Books:

Everyday Reading: U.S. Poetry and Popular Culture 1880-1945. Under contract with Columbia University Press. Scheduled for Fall 2012.

Poetry after Cultural Studies. Ed and Intr. with Heidi R. Bean. (Contributors include Edward J. Brunner, Alan Ramon Clinton, Maria Damon, Margaret Loose, Cary Nelson, Carrie Noland, Angela Sorby and Barrett Watten.) University of Iowa Press. Forthcoming 2011.

Articles:

“Material Concerns: Incidental Poetry, Popular Culture, and Ordinary Readers in Modern America.” In *The Oxford Companion to Modern and Contemporary American Poetry*. Ed. Cary Nelson. Accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. 42 ms. pages.

“American Advertising: A Poem for Every Product.” In *U.S. Popular Print Culture 1860-1920*, Vol. 6 of *The Oxford History of Popular Print Culture*. Ed. Christine Bold. Forthcoming from Oxford University Press, June 2011: 133-167.

“The Business of Rhyming: Burma-Shave Poetry and Popular Culture.” *PMLA* 125.1 (January/February 2010): 29-47.

“Remembering Paul Engle.” *The Writer’s Chronicle* 41.2 (October/November 2008): 32-42.

“The Sounds of Black Laughter and the Harlem Renaissance: Claude McKay, Sterling Brown and Langston Hughes.” *American Literature* 80.1 (March 2008): 57-81.

“Introduction: poetics.” With Heidi R. Bean and Adalaide Morris. *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* 8/9 (Spring & Fall 2006): 3-9.

“A Full Nelson? Getting a Grip on Cultural Criticism of Modern American Poetry.” *Word for/Word* No. 9 (Winter 2006). Web.

“State of the Art: Dana Gioia, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the Politics of American Poetry.” *Word for/Word* No. 5 (Winter 2004). Web.

“The Theater of the Unattainable: Hope and Bitterness in Antonio Skármeta’s *The Postman*.” *Midwest Quarterly* XLII.1 (Autumn 2000): 53-66.

As Editor:

Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies special “poetics” double issue 8/9 (Spring & Fall 2006). With Adalaide Morris and Heidi R. Bean. (Including full-length essays by Edward Brunner, Alan Ramon Clinton, Maria Damon, Cary Nelson, Susan B.A. Somers-Willett, and Daniel Tiffany plus a forum including shorter contributions from Paula Bernat Bennett, Michael Davidson, Heather Dubrow, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, William J. Harris, Meta DuEwa Jones, Warren Liu, Jerome McGann, Philip Metres, Aldon Nielsen, Carrie Noland, Marjorie Perloff, Joan Shelley Rubin, Julianna Spahr, Mark W. Van Wienen, and Barrett Watten.)

Editor of *Poetry Scrapbooks: An Online Archive*. Web.

Editor/Writer of *Poetry & Popular Culture* blog. Web.

“the only legitimate poetry blog around” — Ernest Hilbert, *Contemporary Poetry Review*

“a longtime favorite blog” — *Bookslut*

“Sometimes I feel like I should just put a link to Mike Chasar’s blog in every one of these posts” — *The Rumpus*

“One of my new favorite poetry bloggers”—Stephen Burt, Harvard University

Selected Reviews:

Advertising and Satirical Culture in the Romantic Period, by John Strachan. *Studies in Romanticism* 49 (Fall 2010).

The Plowman Sings: The Essential Fiction, Poetry, and Drama of America’s Forgotten Regionalist Jay G. Sigmund. *Annals of Iowa* 68.4 (Fall 2009).

Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America, by Joan Shelley Rubin. *Journal of American Studies* 42.1 (April 2008).

Would Poetry Disappear? American Verse and the Crisis of Modernity, by John Timberman Newcomb. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 38.2 (Fall 2005).

Pax Atomica by Campbell McGrath. *Valparaiso Poetry Review* 7.1 (Fall/Winter 2005-2006). Web.

Buyways: Billboards, Automobiles, and the American Landscape, by Catherine Gudis. *The Iowa Review Web* 7.1 (August 2005). Web.

The Orchard, by Brigit Pegeen Kelly. *Rain Taxi Review of Books* 9.3 (Fall 2004).

What is this Thing Called Love? by Kim Addonizio. *Rain Taxi Review of Books Online Edition* Fall 2004. Web.

Guys Like Us: Citing Masculinity in Cold War Poetics, by Michael Davidson. *The Iowa Review Web* 6.3 (Sept. 2004). Web.

The Lover of God (With Sucheta Mallick) by Rabindranath Tagore, tr. Tony K. Stewart & Chase Twichell. *American Book Review* 25.6 (September/October 2004).

Interviews:

Carolyn Kizer (With Meridith Brand). *The Writer's Chronicle* 33.6 (May/Summer 2001).

Julia Alvarez (With Constance Pierce). *Glimmer Train Stories* Winter 1998.

Walter Wangerin, Jr. *Ohio Writer* May/June 1993.

Poetry:

Seeing Things (Iowa City: Four Walls Press, 2005). Fine-art letterpress chapbook.

The Dialpainter Sonnets (Iowa City: Four Walls Press, 2004). Fine-art letterpress chapbook.

In 2011, I was hired to write 26 product-oriented poems for Stuckey & Company bimonthly *Agent Alert* newsletter sent to over 4,000 insurance agents. As a creative arm of my academic research into the history of advertising poetry, I'm hoping this activity will provide material for an essay on the subject, in much the same way that writing newspaper poetry (see below) formed the core of my 2008 *Poets & Writers* essay "Writing Good Bad Poetry."

In 2009-10, I was a regular contributor of poetry to the Op-Ed pages of the Salem *Statesman-Journal* newspaper—an arrangement similar to the "Poetic License" feature of the Iowa City *Press-Citizen* described below. Some of these poems were reprinted in the Tallahassee *Democrat* and the Iowa City *Press-Citizen*.

In 2006-09, I was a regular contributor to the "Poetic License" feature of the Iowa City *Press-Citizen's* Op-Ed page which printed over 65 pieces of my rhyming commentary on the week's news—a feature similar to Calvin Trillin's "Deadline Poet" column in *The Nation*. Some of these poems were reprinted by the Salem *Statesman Journal*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the Tallahassee *Democrat*.

Other poems have appeared in *2River Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Archipelago*, *Art & Academe*, *Bat City Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Christian Century*, *Cortland Review*, *The Cresset*, *Cumberland Poetry Review*, *Eclectica Magazine*, *The Formalist*, *Free Lunch*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, *Iowa Writes*, *Italian Americana*, *Literary Imagination*, *The Literary Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Many Mountains Moving*, *Mudlark*, *New Delta Review*, *Oregon Review*, *Poetry*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Rhino*, *River Styx Magazine*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Sparrow*, and *Valparaiso Poetry Review*.

Journalism, Personal Essays, Etc.:

“Writing Good Bad Poetry.” *Poets & Writers Magazine* (November/December 2008): 39-44. Essay.

“Irving Toast, Poetry Ghost.” *The Press-Citizen* 17 December 2008. Interview with Rustin Larson of KRUU 100.1 Fairfield for the Op-Ed Page.

“Put Readings on YouTube.” *The Press-Citizen* 25 November 2008. Guest Opinion for the Op-Ed Page.

“‘My father’s fondest dream’: Setting the record straight on Frank Marshall Davis.” *The Press-Citizen* 31 August 2008. Interview with Mark Davis, son of poet Frank Marshall Davis, for the Op-Ed Page.

“Obama’s bitter muse: Frank M. Davis.” *The Press-Citizen* 30 April 2008. Guest Opinion for the Op-Ed Page. Reprinted in *The Des Moines Register* as “Bitterness tempered by hope: Exploring an early Obama muse.”

“Obama’s Legacy to Another Wright.” *The Press-Citizen* 29 March 2008. Guest Opinion for the Op-Ed page.

“Pills and Lilly’s Wills: Prose for National Poetry Month.” *The Press-Citizen* 31 March 2007. Guest Opinion for the Op-Ed page.

“April and the difficult pleasures of National Poetry Month.” *The Press-Citizen* 3 April 2006. Guest Opinion for the Op-Ed page.

“‘Insane Conjunction!’: Salvador Dalí and the Shakespeare Suites.” Brochure essay for *Salvador Dalí Shakespeare Etchings* exhibition. Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University. Jan. 24-March 23, 2003.

“Prime Time for Rhyme: How do we love poetry? Let us count the ways.” *The Dayton Daily News* 27 April 2000. Feature-length news story.

“That Bloomin’ Canon: A Poetic Noir.” With Meridith Brand. *The Cresset* April 1999: 6-12. Literary essay.

“Silence in the Suburbs.” *The Cresset* February 1995: 13-18. Essay.

“Words And/Or Deeds.” *The Cresset* January 1993: 18-21. Essay.

Bi-weekly feature columnist for the *Aurora Beacon* daily newspaper, 1994-95.

Invited Talks

“Cliptomania! The Culture of Poetry in Depression Era America.” Institute for Continued Learning. Willamette University, April 2011.

“Try This On Your Kindle: Poetry Scrapbooks and American Literacy Practices before the Age of TV, Rock & Roll, Mix Tapes, Photoshop, iPods, Blogs and Facebook.” Willamette University Family Weekend Lecture. October 2010.

“William Stafford’s Evergreens.” Friends of William Stafford Society. Lake Oswego Public Library. Lake Oswego, OR, January 2010.

Guest Panelist (with Scott Woods, Rob Telfer and Tara Betts). “Poetry & Pop Culture.” *The Eclectic Word* online radio show, June 2009.

“From Vagabond to Visiting Poet: The Life and Times of Nicholas Vachel Lindsay.” Hiram College, October 2008.

“The Arbiters of Paste: Poetry Scrapbooks and American Culture.” Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Coffee Talk Series, University of Iowa, February 2008.

“eBay and the Future of the Humanities.” Luncheon Address, Council of Graduate Schools annual conference, Seattle, WA, December 2007.

“What is the History of the Poetry Scrapbook?” University of Iowa Center for the Book Brown Bag Lunch Series, November 2007.

“Making Book History.” Valparaiso University, October 2006.

Conference Presentations

“From Vagabond to Visiting Poet: Vachel Lindsay and the Prehistory of the Program Era.” Panel: Modernist Patronage: Corporate and Academic Evolutions. Modernist Studies Association Conference. Victoria, B.C., Fall 2010.

“The Arbiters of Paste: Poetry Scrapbooking and Participatory Culture.” (Panel organizer and panelist.) Panel: Poetry and Popular Culture. Fiske Matters: A Conference on John Fiske’s Legacy. Madison, WI, Summer 2010.

“Getting the News from Poetry.” (Panel organizer, panelist, and chair.) Panel: Cultures of Folk Poetry. Western States Folklore Society Conference. Willamette University, Salem, OR, Spring 2010.

“Engaging Poetry.” Panel: Meet the Pros: Engaged Current and Former Graduate Students at Iowa. Obermann Graduate Institute on Public Engagement and the Academy. University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, Winter 2009.

“Commonplacing, Clipping, Collage.” Panel: Scraps/Archive/Collage. College Book Art Association Biennial Conference. University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, Winter 2009.

“The Case for Vachel Lindsay: Celebrity, Poetry, and the Program Era.” Panel: Celebrity, Reception, and Literary Production. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Minneapolis, MN, Fall 2008.

“When the Scrapbook Came of Age.” (Panel organizer, panelist, and chair.) Panel: Commonplace Books, Scrapbooks, and Web Technologies. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Minneapolis, MN, Fall 2008.

“Re-Reading *The Murder of Lidice*.” (Panel organizer, panelist, and chair.) Panel: Three Decades of Millay. Lifting Belly High: A Conference on Women’s Poetry Since 1900. Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Fall 2008.

Panel Organizer and Chair. Poetry & Popular Culture: The 19th Century. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Cleveland, OH, Fall 2007.

Panel Organizer and Chair. Poetry & Popular Culture: The 20th Century. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Cleveland, OH, Fall 2007.

Co-organizer (with Dee Morris) of “A Poetries Symposium” held at the University of Iowa, April 5-7, 2007, with Cary Nelson as keynote speaker, plus featured lectures by Maria Damon, Melissa Girard, Steve Healey, Matthias Regan, James Sullivan, and Robert von Hallberg.

“Wireless Bardcasts: Ted Malone, Tony Wons, and the Poetry of Early Radio.” Panel: The Radio Show. Studies in Sound: Listening in the Age of Visual Culture. University of Iowa, Spring 2007.

“Consuming Passions: The Burma-Shave Poems and Poetic Justice.” Panel: The Uses of Reading in Everyday Life. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Chicago, IL, Fall 2006.

“‘Slithery’ Reading with Aunt Hepsy: The American Poetry Scrapbook and Modern Literature.” Panel: Collecting Culture. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Chicago, IL, Fall 2006.

“Sterling Brown and the Technology of Black Laughter.” (Panel organizer and panelist.) Panel: April Fools: Literature’s Laughing Matters. Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language, and Media. Northern Illinois University, April 1, 2006.

“‘Words roll, spin, flare up, rumble, trickle, foam—’: William Carlos Williams and the Poetics of Billboard Discourse.” Panel: Modernist Poetry and the Arts. Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Milwaukee, WI, Fall 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

\$6,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2011

Faculty Achievement Award, Willamette University, 2011

Junior Year Research Sabbatical, Willamette University, Spring Semester, 2011

\$2,500 Atkinson Faculty Research Grant, Willamette University, Spring 2010

Willamette University Faculty Travel Grants, Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Fall 2010

Willamette University Council for Diversity and Social Justice Mini Grant, Spring 2010

National winner, “Distinguished Dissertation” award, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools and University Microfilm International to recognize the best humanities dissertation written between 2005 and 2007

University of Iowa D.C. Spriestersbach Prize for best humanities dissertation 2005-2007

4-Year Presidential Fellowship, University of Iowa, 2002-2007

University of Iowa Elizabeth Dietz Prize for Best Critical Essay on Poetry, 2007

Media Associate, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, University of Iowa, 2007

\$1,000 University of Iowa Student Government Research Grant, 2006

Featured Poet (“Conches on Christmas”), *Poetry Magazine* Web Site, August 2005

First Place, 2004 Rhino Editors’ Prize for “Somewhere Tonight as the Train”

Artist Resource Fund (ARF) grant, Pinellas County Arts Council, 2001

\$5,000 Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship, 1999

Pushcart Prize Nomination for poetry, 1997-98, 2000-05