# Education

Master of Fine Arts, Fiction. The University of Iowa, 1982

B.A, Indiana University, Comparative Literature, Minor: Film Criticism, 1980

# Academic Positions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Director, Writing Program, Professor of Humanities, Writer-in-Residence, Yale-NUS College, Singapore
 |  |  2012-Present |
| * Director, Nonfiction Writing Program, Professor of English, The University of Iowa
* Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member, RMIT, Melbourne
* Professor Emeritus, The University of Iowa
 |  |  2004-2013 2015 – Present 2012 |
| * Founder and President, NonfictioNOW Conference
* Professor of English, The University of Utah
 |  |  2005-Present  2001-2004 |
| * Faculty Chair, Vermont College Low-Residency MFA, Montpelier, VT, Faculty Member, 2000-2013
* Inaugural Viebranz Distinguished Visiting Chair in Creative Writing, St. Lawrence University
* Associate, Full Professor of English, Western Washington University
* Assistant, Associate Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 |   |  2002-2005 2001 1994-2000  1986-1994  |

# Selected Honors, Grants, and Awards

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship (<https://www.bfny.org>)
* Distinguished Visiting Faculty, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia
 |  |  2015/16 2015/16 |
| * Pushcart Prize for my essay, “To the Rainforest Room”
 |  |  2012 |
| * Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Fellow
* Hermitage Artist Retreat Fellow
 |  |  2011  2009  |
| * John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
 |  |  2008 |
|  |  |  |

# Scholarship, Books

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * The Diplomat’s Daughter (in circulation)
 |  |  2017 |
| * I’ll Tell You Mine: Essays from the First Thirty Years of the Nonfiction Writing Program at The University of Iowa (University of Chicago Press).
* Turning Life into Fiction (Chinese edition, Renmin University Press).
* Nola, A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness (Graywolf Press, 1998; The University of Iowa Press, reissue).
 |  |  2015  Forthcoming  2013 |
| * Field Guide For Immersion Writing: Memoir, Journalism, Travel; (The University of Georgia Press)
* Reply All, Stories (Break Away Books, Indiana University Press)
* The Last Studebaker, a Novel (Graywolf Press, 1992, Break Away Books, Indiana University Press, reissue).
* Do-Over (Little, Brown, Hachette)
* Invented Eden (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003, Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press)
* Turning Life into Fiction (Story Press, 1994, Graywolf Press, reissue).
* Extreme Fiction: Fabulists and Formalists, with Michael Martone (Longman).
* The Big Ear, Stories (John Blair).
* All You Can Eat, Stories (Atlantic Monthly Press).
* The Mouse Town (Word Beat Press).
 |  |  2012 2012 2012  2009 2006 2006 2004 1995 1988 1987 |

# Selected Publications 2014-2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * “They Have Forgotten Many Things,” an essay about the Falkland/Malvinas, *The Iowa Review*.
* An Erasure story/essay of mine, “Boy Scouts in the Philippines, or the Key to the Treat Box,” in which I uncovered an anti-colonial text within a racist, colonial Young Adult novel from 1911, appeared in *Esquire, Philippines.*
* An excerpt from my novel, *The Diplomat’s Daughter* in *The Near and the Far: New Stories from the Asia Pacific Region,* (Scribe/Penguin, Australia)
 |  |  December 2016  August, 2016  July, 2016 |
| * “Riding the Whip” in *Family Resemblance, An Exploration of 8 Hybrid Genres*, Edited by Marcela Sulak and Jacqueline Kosolov. (Rose Metal Press)
* “Present” in GET LUCKY, An Anthology of Philippine and Singapore Writings, Edited by Manuelita Contreras-Cabrera, Migs Bravo-Dutt, and Eric Tinsay Valles (Ethos Press, Singapore)
* Three lyric essays in Eye/Feel/Write, Experiments in Ekphrasis, edited by Desmond Kon Zhicheng-Mingde (Squircle Line Press, Singapore)
* Field Notes for the Graveyard Enthusiast” in UNION: 15 Years of *Drunken Boat,* 50 Years of Writing From Singapore, Edited By Alvin Pang and Ravi Shankar (Ethos Books, Singapore)
* On the Affection of Fathers for Their Children” in *After Montaigne,* edited by David Lazar and Patrick Madden (University of Chicago Press)
* “Border Crossing” an essay in *ORION* Magazine, Volume 34, #4
* Riding the Whip,” a story, anthologized in *Life is Short, Art is Shorter,* Edited by David Shields and Elizabeth Cooperman (Hawthorne Books)
 |  | November, 2015November, 2015 October, 2015 October, 2015 October, 2015  July/August 2015 April 15, 2015  |
| * “Why My Students and I Met with a Potentially Violent Felon in Cuba.” *The New York Observer*.
 |  |  February 7, 2015 |
| * “Remembrance: Merry Prankster, Robert Stone,” *The New York* *Observer*
* Review of *Lost Tribe of Coney Island* by Claire Prentiss in The *New York Times Sunday Book Review*
* My short documentary, “Jewish Caviar,” played several international film festivals: The Wine Country Film Festival (Sonoma, CA), The Starz Denver Film Festival, and The San Diego Jewish Film Festival
* “Lines that Create Motion” in *The Far Edges of the Fourth Genre, An Anthology of Exploration in Creative Nonfiction,* Edited by Sean Prentiss and Joe Wilkins (Michigan State University Press)
 |  |  Jan., 5th, 2015 Nov. 14th, 2014  Sept, 2014  March, 2014 |

# Selected Readings, Workshops, and Presentations

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Keynote Address, Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association

Conference, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China* NYUAD Writing Studies Working Group, Comparative

Writing Program Pedagogy, Abu Dhabi.* Creative Writing in the Academy Symposium, presentation

 Hong Kong Baptist University.* Dangerous Truths Workshop, South Australian Writers’ Centre

Adelaide, South Australia.* “Writing from the Diaspora,” Panel at Singapore Writers’ Festival
* Reading, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
* “Fakes, Frauds, and Forgeries: How to turn Mundane Forms into Lively Stories and Essays,” Iowa Summer Writers Festival, Iowa City, IA
* Workshops and Readings at NYU Abu Dhabi
* Lecture on *Turning Life into Fiction*, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China
* Faber Academy short course, Allen and Unwin Publishers, Sydney, Australia, “Short Story Beginnings and endings”
 |  |  Nov. 26, 2016   Nov. 17, 2016  Nov. 11, 2016  Nov. 6, 2016  Nov. 5, 2016  June 29, 2016 June 19-24, 2016   April 5, 2016  March 21, 2016  January, 30, 2016 |
| * Catamaran Literary Conference, Pebble Beach, CA, Workshop Leader.
* MFA in Creative Writing, City University, Hong Kong, Summer Residency. I led a nonfiction workshop during this residency, gave a reading from my work, and a lecture.
* “Writing Your Life” workshop, Bar Luna, three day workshop, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia.
* Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, Israel, Gave Master Class in Creative Nonfiction and reading.
* RMIT, Melbourne, Australia, Lecture: “Ekphrasis, The Lyric Essay Meets Visual Art.”
* Panelist: “The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But your Speculations: The Use of Speculation and Other Imaginative Techniques in Creative Nonfiction.” At The Associated Writing Programs Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
* Panelist: “Other People’s Privacy: Secondary Characters in Nonfiction.” At The Associated Writing Programs Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
* 5th Philippines International Literary Festival, Panelist
* In Conversation with Geoff Dyer, Singapore Writers Festival
* Narrow Chimney Reading Series, Flagstaff, Arizona
* Melbourne Writers Festival, panels and workshops
* Byron Bay Writers Festival, Australia, Workshops and panels
 |   |  Aug. 12- 16, 2015 July 18 – 25, 2015 May 15-17, 2015  May 10-12, 2015  April 20th, 2015  April 11th, 2015 April 10th, 2015  Nov. 12th-13th, 2014 Nov. 8th, 2014 Sept. 25th, 2014 Aug. 22nd – 24th 2014 July 31-Aug3, 2014  |

# Courses Taught (2014-2017)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
* Introduction to Fiction
* Advanced Creative Nonfiction
* Ekphrasis
* Living Authors
* Introduction to the Arts: Totalitarianism and Its Opponents
* Literature and Humanities 2
 |  |  |

# Service to the Profession and Community

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Final Judge (with Gish Jen), Dayton Literary Peace Prize
* Inaugural Author-in-Residence, Singapore American School
* Final Judge, Nonfiction, Crazyhorse Literary Competition
* American Writers Festival, Co-Chair, Singapore. For two years, Yale-NUS co-hosted and co-sponsored this literary festival with SMU, The U.S. Embassy, and in 2015, the Singapore American School). Americanwritfest.org
* Founder and C0-Chair, NonfictioNow. This biennial conference, which I founded in 2005, is a three-day event bringing together hundreds of writers, readers, editors, students and teachers of nonfiction from around the world. Previous conferences have been held at The University of Iowa, RMIT in Melbourne, Australia, and most recently at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The next conference will be in Reykjavik, Iceland at The University of Iceland. NonfictioNow.org
* Judge for National Arts Council Golden Point Award for Poetry, Singapore.
 |  |   2016 2016 2014, 2015 2005-2017 Aug. 27th, 2015 |

# Service to Yale-NUS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Commencement Student Speaker Committee
* Third Year Review Committee
* Search Committee Member for Dean of Students
* Chair, ERT Committee
 |  |  2016/17 2016 2015 8/2014- 1/2016 |
| * Chair, CIPE Committee
 |  |  3/2014 - Present |
| * Member of Study Abroad Petition Committee
* Organizer of symposium, “What Children Shouldn’t Read, a Global Controversy” at Yale-NUS.
 |  |  2014- Present 3/3 and 3/4, 2016  |
| * Lecture on Candide for Literature and Humanities 2
 |  |  4/27, 2015 |
| * Search Committee Member for Senior Art Historian
 |  |  |
| * Organizer of Yale-NUS Writers Centre Reading Series
 |  |  |

# Affiliations

National Book Critics Circle (USA, Voting Member)

PEN American Center

Authors Guild

Associated Writing Programs

Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association (Board Member)

The Iowa Review (Contributing Editor)

International Writing Program, The University of Iowa (Board Member)