

JEN HIRT
 jlh73@psu.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Composition

Penn State Harrisburg

August 2007 (as instructor) to present (as a tenure-track assistant professor)

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of Idaho, 2004

- Nonfiction Thesis: *Under Glass*
- Thesis Adviser: Mary Clearman Blew

M.A. in English, Iowa State University, 2000

- Concentration in creative writing
- Thesis Adviser: Steve Pett

B.A. in English, Hiram College, 1997

- Concentration in creative writing
- Advisers: Hale Chatfield and Joyce Dyer

PUBLICATIONS

Creative Nonfiction In-Progress

Monster Magnificent: Keeping the Beast Beside You

- Personal essays arguing for why we should keep the monstrous close to us.
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Slip Lead: Walking the Shelter Dogs

- Year-long personal narrative project about the shelter dogs in the city. These are true stories about my volunteer position as a dog walker and a writer of the Petfinder profiles.

Memoir

Under Glass: The Girl with a Thousand Christmas Trees. Akron, OH: Ringtaw Books/University of Akron Press, 2010.

Creative Nonfiction

“White God and the Shelter Dogs.” *The Weeklings*. Web. February 18, 2016.

“Swingline Nine.” *From Curlers to Chainsaws: Women and Their Machines*. Lansing, Michigan State University Press, Spring 2016: 260-271.

“Follow Me.” *Flashglass/Glassworks Magazine*. Web. September 1, 2015.

“Whisper Satyr.” *Hobart*. Web. February 4, 2015.

“Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish.” *Ninth Letter*. Spring/Summer 2014: 7-13.

“Students of the Route.” *Terrain*. Web. October 2013.

“Hour Thirteen.” *The Colorado Review*. Vol. 40, no. 3, Fall/Winter 2013: 65-77.

- “The Understory of the One-Eyed Deer.” *Confrontation*. No. 113, Spring 2013: 201-213.
- “Monster Magnificent.” *TriQuarterly*. Web. Winter 2013.
- “Glow in the Dark.” *Redivider*. Vol. 10, no. 1, Winter 2013: 35-43.
- “String Theories.” *The Sonora Review*. No. 62, Fall 2012: 7-14.
- “Lores of Last Unicorns.” *The Pushcart Prize XXXV*. Bill Henderson, ed. New York, Pushcart Press, 2011: 109-122.
- “Lores of Last Unicorns.” *The Gettysburg Review*. Vol. 22, no. 4, Winter 2009: 615-626.
- “Rcinus Communis.” *The King’s English*. Web. Spring 2009.
- “Arrived to Find.” *Natural Bridge*. Vol. 20, Spring 2009: 71-85.
- “Laying Dynamite with the 9th Duke of Devonshire.” *Redivider*. Vol. 6, no. 2, Spring 2009: 94-101.
- “Idaho Fell.” *Sunday Salon*. Web. Summer 2008.
- “Herculean in Nantucket White.” *Rougarou*. Web. Spring 2008.
- “Stronghold.” *Flyway*. Vol. 9.3/10.1, Spring/Fall 2005: 61-71.
- “The Grotto of Redemption.” *The Briar Cliff Review*. Vol. 17, Spring 2005: 68-73.
- “Cut.” *Flyway*. Vol. 8.3, Spring 2004. 43-54.
- “Best Offer.” *Touchstone*. Spring 2003: 82-94.
- “Under Glass.” *The Ohioana Quarterly*. Vol. XLVI, Issue #4. Winter 2003. 489-498. (reprinted)
- “Controlling the Light.” *The Briar Cliff Review*. Vol. 14, Spring 2002: 41-44.
- “Under Glass.” *The Heartlands Today: A Life’s Work*. Vol. 12: 58-67.

Video Essay Collaboration

- “Hollow Snake.” Video. With Stephen Ausherman, Hideki Kanno, Todd Smith, Patrick Dougherty. Fall 2012. <http://vimeo.com/54067793>

As Book Editor or Co-Editor

Kept Secret: The Half-Truth in Nonfiction. Michigan State University Press, forthcoming 2017.

Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with the Writers. SUNY Press, 2016.

Mediums. (Opposing Viewpoints Series.) Detroit, Greenhaven Press, 2006.

Literature Articles

- “Eula Biss.” *American Writers XXVI*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2015: 45-60.
- “Michelle Cliff.” *American Writers XXII*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2012: 33-45.
- “Illness as Metaphor.” *Masterplots: Fourth Edition*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2011: 2812-2814.
- “Pilgrim at Tinker Creek.” *Masterplots: Fourth Edition*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2011: 4469-4471.
- “Virgin Time” *Masterplots II: Christian Literature*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2007: 1883-1886.
- “Charles Baxter.” *American Writers XVII*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2007: 13-24.
- “Scott Russell Sanders.” *American Writers XVI*. Jay Parini, ed. NY, Gale Pub: 2006: 183-200.
- “Hamlin Garland.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Oxford UP, 2003: 95-97.
- “Ring Lardner.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Oxford UP, 2003: 402-404.

Poetry

- “Three Bricks Thick.” *Pinyon*. Forthcoming Spring 2016.
- “Have Two.” *Salamander*. Forthcoming Spring 2016.
- “Carry On.” *Natural Bridge*. 33 (Spring 2015) 109.

- “If You Don’t Stop Right Now.” *Natural Bridge*. 33 (Spring 2015) 108.
 “Aster Yellows.” *Quiddity*. 7.1 (2014) 84.
 “Why Not Malachite for Resurrection.” *Blackbird*. Web. Spring 2014 issue.
 “Too Many Questions About Strawberries.” *The Baltimore Review*. Web. Winter 2013 issue.
 “Tough Stain.” *The Rubbertop Review*. Vol. 4, 2012: 23.
 “Out West.” *Conduit*. No. 19. Spring 2008: on the “tragedy” page.
 “My Family Owns Greenhouses in Ohio.” *Pinyon*. Issue 14. Spring 2005: 34-35.
 “Girlfriend.” *Hiram Poetry Review*. Issue 65, Spring 2004: 37.
 “The Last Path to Me.” *Tributaries*. Issue 4, Fall 2001: 42-43.
 “He Was.” *Main Street Rag*. 4.3 (1999): 63.

Fiction

- “Defendalyze.” *580 Split*. Issue 4, Spring 2002: 24-30.
 “Ruth Has Her Reasons.” *The Gihon River Review*. Vol. 1, Spring 2002: 36-46.
 “Alger Walks the Lion.” *Inkwell Magazine*. Issue 12, Spring 2001: 10-13.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2016, Pushcart nomination for “If You Don’t Stop Right Now”
 2015, Pushcart nomination for “Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish”
 2015, notable essay for “Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish” in *Best American Essays*
 2014, notable essay for “Hour Thirteen” in *Best American Essays*
 2014, Finalist, Baltic Writing Residency in Scotland
 2013, Finalist for the Terrain nonfiction prize
 2013-14, 2010 and 2003-2007, Pushcart Prize nominations
 2012, Gabehart Prize for Nonfiction from the Kentucky Women Writers Conference
 2012, grant for teaching creative writing from PSU’s Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence
 2011, \$1000 Drake University Emerging Writer Award for *Under Glass*
 2010, Pushcart Prize for the essay “Lores of Last Unicorns”
 2010, notable essay mention for “Arrived to Find” in *Best American Essays*
 2009, \$5000 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Creative Nonfiction Fellowship Award
 2004, Bernheim Arboretum Writer-in-Residence and \$1000 stipend
 2003, \$1000 Ohioana Library Grant
 2002, Honorable Mention in the Lorian Hemingway Fiction Contest
 2002, Honorable Mention in the New Letters Nonfiction Awards
 2001, Finalist, Inkwell Short Story Contest
 2000, Finalist, New Letters Nonfiction Awards

OTHER WRITING AND EDITING EXPERIENCE

Manuscript Reviewer

- *Creative Writing Studies Organization*, January 2016-present

Contributing Editor

- *Im-Possible*, June 2015-present

Judge

- 2016: Hiram College Emerging Writers Nonfiction Contest (high school)
- 2016: Sigma Tau Delta (English honors society) conference paper evaluator
- 2015: South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Writing Awards, Fiction Judge
- 2014: Pennsylvania Scholastic Press Association conference contests
- 2013: Hiram College Creative Nonfiction Contest
- 2013: Penn State University's Toby Thompson Award in Creative Nonfiction
- 2013: South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Writing Awards Poetry Judge
- 2011: *Periphery Journal* prose contest at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Writer-in-Residence

Bernheim Arboretum

September and October 2004

- Submitted nonfiction essays and project proposal to win residency
- Offered classes in nature writing
- Gave a presentation about the history of greenhouses

Freelance Writing

Various projects edited by Jay Parini

Summer 2002, summer 2004, summer 2006, summer 2010, summer 2014

- *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* (two 3,000 word biographies)
- *American Writers XVI* (10,000 word biography on Scott Russell Sanders)
- *American Writers XVII* (10,000 word biography on Charles Baxter)
- *American Writers XXII* (10,000 word biography on Michelle Cliff)
- *American Writers XXVI* (10,000 word biography on Eula Biss)

Masterplots (Salem Press)

September 2006 and summer 2009

- *Masterplots II: Christian Literature* (article about Patricia Hampl's *Virgin Time*)
- *Masterplots Fourth Edition* (articles about Susan Sontag's *Illness as Metaphor* and Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*)

Book Editor

Under Contract

Michigan State University Press

East Lansing, Michigan

June 2015 to present

- Co-editor (with UL-Lafayette instructor Dr. Tina Mitchell) for the creative nonfiction anthology *Kept Secret: The Half-Truth in Nonfiction*. Contributors include Leslie Jamison, Robin Hemley and Brenda Miller.

Published

SUNY Press

Albany, New York

April 2014 to present

- Co-editor (with poet Erin Murphy, Penn State Altoona) for the creative nonfiction anthology *Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with*

the Writers. Contributors include Cheryl Strayed, Dinty Moore, and Michael Martone.

Greenhaven Press
Farmington Hills, Michigan
October 2005 to August 2006

- Editor for the *Fact or Fiction* series. I collected articles, wrote introductions, organized chapters, and created a glossary for a book on psychic mediums.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Session Chair: Gimme Shelter: Creative Writing about Rescued Animals
Northeast Modern Language Association Conference
Hartford, Connecticut
Forthcoming in 2016

Session Chair: Literary Magazines at the PSU Campuses
Penn State English Conference
Forthcoming October 2015

Workshop Presentation of “Pit Bull Economics”
Disquiet International Literary Program
Lisbon, Portugal
July 6, 2015

Session Chair: The Literature of Resistance
Northeast Modern Language Association Conference
April 6, 2014

Panel Participant: Mystery in the Creative Writing Process
Northeast Modern Language Association Conference
April 6, 2014

Panel Participant: The Unconditional in American Literature
College English Association Conference
March 28, 2014

Panel Participant: Balancing Creative Priorities and Teaching
Eastern Association of Pennsylvania State Universities
October 16, 2013

Panel Participant: Creative Writing Pedagogy
Penn State English Conference
October 2013