

## **TJ BEITELMAN**

Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts  
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### **EDUCATION**

M.F.A., Creative Writing, University of Alabama, 2001

M.A., English, Virginia Tech, 1996

B.A., English, Virginia Tech, 1993

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Chair, Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts, 2015 – present

Instructor, Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts, 2002 – 2015

Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2002

Associate Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2001

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA)**

Department Chair, 2015 – present

Instructor, 2002 – 2015

#### **Summary of Duties**

Teach advanced workshops, forms courses, and literature surveys for competitively admitted young writers in statewide arts magnet high school. Direct senior theses in Creative Writing and serve on thesis committees. Evaluate and mentor three full-time Creative Writing department faculty members. Direct recruiting and admissions processes for department of 50+ Creative Writing majors. Oversee departmental budgets and coordinate fundraising initiatives. Curate and promote visiting writers series. Direct outreach activities, including summer writing camps and a year-long Language Arts tutoring program for elementary students in Birmingham City Schools. Coordinate statewide contests for young writers. Create and update content for department's on-line presence.

#### Writing Courses at ASFA:

Fiction Workshop

Poetry Workshop

Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Writing for Film

Lyrical Forms: Words + Sounds + Images

Lyrical Forms: Prosody

Narrative Forms: The Art & Science of Storytelling

Narrative Forms: Breaking Narrative Boundaries  
Creative Writing Senior Thesis  
Creative Writing Senior Practicum

Literature Courses at ASFA:

Contemporary Poetry Survey  
Contemporary Fiction Survey  
Contemporary Nonfiction Survey  
Special Topics: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges  
Special Topics: Writing America  
Special Topics: Writing in the Digital Age  
World Literature

**Department of English, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)**

Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2003

Undergraduate Course at UAB:

English Composition I

**Department of English, University of Alabama**

Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Fall 1997 – Spring 2000

Undergraduate Courses at the University of Alabama:

Composition: Expository Writing  
Composition: Writing About Literature  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Introduction to World Literature  
Intermediate Poetry Workshop

**Department of English, Virginia Tech**

Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Fall 1994 – Spring 1996

Writing Center Tutor, Summer 1995

Undergraduate Courses at Virginia Tech:

Composition: Expository Writing  
Composition: Modes of Inquiry

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*This is the Story of His Life*— (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, in press  
*Communion* (stories), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2016  
*Americana* (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2015  
*John the Revelator* (a novel), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2014  
*In Order to Form a More Perfect Union* (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2012

*Self-Helpless: A Misfit's Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness* (memoir),  
San Francisco: Outpost 19, 2012

### Chapbooks

*Pilgrims: A Love Story* (poems), Pittsburgh/New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2010  
*Thirteen Curses and Other Love Poems*, Aptos, CA: Dream Horse Press, 2009

### Short Fiction in Periodicals/On-line

- 2016 "Joy," *Blackbird*, vol. 15, no. 2  
2015 "The Scrivener," *Bop Dead City Review*, Issue 13  
2010 "Manna," *Bellevue Literary Review*, vol. 10, no. 2  
"Arctic Circle," *Staccato*, no. 18  
"Another Sunless Winter Day at the Top of the World," *Staccato*, no. 19  
2008 "Ruin," *Yalobusha Review*, vol. 13  
2007 "Hope, Faith, and Love," *THE2NDHAND*  
2005 "Strange Bedfellows," *Quarter After Eight*, vol. 11/12  
"Resident," *Quarter After Eight*, vol. 11/12  
"Tiresias the Seer," *New Orleans Review*, vol. 31, no. 1  
2004 "Blackface," *Indiana Review*, vol. 26, no. 2  
"Rumination," *Willow Springs*, no. 54  
2002 "Yoi, Hajime," *Permafrost*, vol. 24  
1998 "Rooster," *Quarterly West*, no. 47 (Pushcart Prize nominee)

### Selected Poetry in Periodicals/On-line

- 2016 "[The story of his life: *Math and Science*]," "[The story of his life: *Art in the Park*]," and "[The story of his life: *The Dream of Flight*]," *Posit*, Issue 10  
2015 "[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: Oedipus*]," "[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: Metastasis*]," "[The story of his life: *The Talk with Talk of Sport*]," "[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: The Muse*]," and "[The story of his life: *Hairshirt*]," *4ink7: An Unction from the Holy One*, Issue 1  
"Upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of Hank Aaron Surpassing Babe Ruth as All-Time Homerun King," reprinted by *Verse Daily*  
2013 "Matrushka," *Waccamaw*, Fall Issue, no. 12  
"[The story of his life: *He Would Know Just Enough to Get Himself Hanged*]," "[The story of his life: *Angel Said Father I've Married the Falconer*]," and "[The story of his life: *Angel Said Father I've Married the Wolfman*]," *DIAGRAM* 13.3  
"[The story of his life: *What Catches His Interest Will Not Hold His Interest*]" *Black Warrior Review* (on-line), 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Feature  
2012 "The New Religion," reprinted by *Verse Daily*  
2011 "[The story of his life: *...he read figure as fugue—*]," *Cavalier Literary Couture*  
"Muse: Nikita Khrushchev," *491 Magazine*, issue 3  
2010 "The Inciting Incident," reprinted by *Verse Daily*  
2009 "In Order to Form a More Perfect Union," *Copper Nickel*, vol. 13  
"Why I Love a City," *International Poetry Review*, Spring Issue  
2008 "Curse #1: The Accursed Takes the Form of a Cat in the Cold," *Birmingham Arts Journal*, vol. 5, no. 1

- “Curse #9: The Accursed Spied from 40,000 Feet” and “Curse #13: The Curse That Is Not a Curse,” *Tusculum Review*, vol. 4
- 2007 “Upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of Hank Aaron Surpassing Babe Ruth as All-Time Homerun King,” *Birmingham Weekly*, Poetry Issue, vol. 10, no. 37
- 2006 “Upon Charley’s Marriage to a Girl from Idaho” and “Upon the Birth of Mike’s Daughter, Some Unsolicited Advice Regarding Love and Other Such Vagaries,” *Harpur Palate*, Winter Issue
- 2004 “A Poem in Which I Grow Old with the Woman of My Dreams,” *Ascent*, Spring Issue
- 2002 “[She drinks celery soup...],” *Oxford Magazine*, vol. 16  
 “11,” *DIAGRAM* 2.3  
 “Make Believe Maestro,” *Colorado Review*, vol. 29, no. 1  
 “Very Like a Whale,” *Sycamore Review*, Fall/Winter Issue
- 2001 “7,” “9,” and “17,” *DIAGRAM* 1.5
- 2000 “Bluebirds,” *Third Coast*, Spring Issue  
 “Lullaby” and “Ground,” *Whirligig*, vol. 1, no. 1

### Poetry in Anthologies

- 2011 “Matrushka,” *Slash Pine Anthology 2011*, Patti White & Lucas Southworth, eds. Tuscaloosa, AL: Slash Pine Press
- 2007 “The World Peace Poem,” *Whatever Remembers Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry*, Sue Brannan Walker & J. William Chambers, eds. Mobile, AL: Negative Capability Press
- 2003 Three poems (“7,” “9,” and “11”), (*Some from*) *DIAGRAM*, Ander Monson, ed. Washington, DC: Del Sol Press

### Poetry Broadside

- 2001 “Elegy for the Boy Sent to Live Among the Fishes,” New Michigan Press

### Essays & Articles in Periodicals/On-line

- 2012 “Summer Library Series: The Mother of Libraries,” What She Might Think ([www.erinpringle.com](http://www.erinpringle.com))
- 2010 “A Timeless Tale Turns Fifty: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Celebrating a Lasting Legacy,” *Portico*, April Issue
- 2002 “Jason LaBresh: Tider Down Under,” *Alabama Alumni Magazine*, vol. 82, no. 4  
 “Changing the ‘Heart of Darkness’: Sheppard and Lapsley in the Congo,” *Alabama Heritage*, no. 63
- 2000 “Demopolis, City of the People,” with Stuart Flynn, *Alabama Heritage*, no. 59  
 “Daniel Cram’s Mexican War Sketches,” with John McCall, *Alabama Heritage*, no. 56

### Interviews & Reviews

- 2008 Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Michelle Burke,” Red Mountain Blog ([redmountainblog.blogspot.com](http://redmountainblog.blogspot.com))
- 2007 Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Michael Martone,” Red Mountain Blog ([redmountainblog.blogspot.com](http://redmountainblog.blogspot.com))  
 Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Ander Monson,” Red Mountain Blog

- ([redmountainblog.blogspot.com](http://redmountainblog.blogspot.com))  
 Interview, "500 Words (More) or Less: Katie Ford," Red Mountain Blog  
 ([redmountainblog.blogspot.com](http://redmountainblog.blogspot.com))
- 2001 Review, *Lawrence Booth's Book of Visions* (poems) by Maurice Manning,  
*New Orleans Review*, vol. 27, no. 2
- 1999 Interview with poet Bob Perelman, *Sunday Magazine*, WUAL 91.5 (Alabama  
 Public Radio)

### Media Coverage

- 2017 "Communion: Fiction by TJ Beitelman," reviewed by Mackenzie Hamilton,  
 New Pages ([newpages.com](http://newpages.com))  
 "Communion by TJ Beitelman," reviewed by Ray Barker, Full Stop  
 ([full-stop.net](http://full-stop.net))  
 "National Short Story Month – Mini-interview: TJ Beitelman," Emerging  
 Writers Network ([emergingwriters.typepad.com](http://emergingwriters.typepad.com))  
 "[Review] *Communion* by TJ Beitelman," reviewed by Jonathan Duckworth,  
 Pank ([pankmagazine.com](http://pankmagazine.com))
- 2016 "Book Review: *Americana* by TJ Beitelman," reviewed by Jim Murphy,  
 Alabama Writers' Forum On-line ([writersforum.org](http://writersforum.org))
- 2014 "Man of the Hour: TJ Beitelman," See Jane Write Magazine  
 ([seejanewritemagazine.com](http://seejanewritemagazine.com))  
 "Review: *John the Revelator*," reviewed by Stephen McClurg, Eunoia  
 Solstice ([eunoiasolstice.com](http://eunoiasolstice.com))  
 "*John the Revelator* by TJ Beitelman," reviewed by Zack Kopp,  
 The Examiner ([examiner.com](http://examiner.com))
- 2013 "Interview: TJ Beitelman," Eunoia Solstice ([eunoiasolstice.com](http://eunoiasolstice.com))  
 "The Next Big Thing: *John the Revelator*," (invited by poet Mark Neely):  
<http://tjbeitelman.com/?p=4761>
- 2012 "*In Order to Form a More Perfect Union* (review)," reviewed by Phil  
 Constable, New York Journal of Books ([nyjournalofbooks.com](http://nyjournalofbooks.com))
- 2011 "TJ Beitelman's *Pilgrims: A Love Story*," reviewed by Molly Gaudry, Big  
 Other ([bigother.com](http://bigother.com))
- 2010 "*Pilgrims: A Love Story* (review)," reviewed by Phil Constable, New  
 York Journal of Books ([nyjournalofbooks.com](http://nyjournalofbooks.com))  
 "TJ Beitelman: The TNB Self Interview," The Nervous Breakdown  
 ([thenervousbreakdown.com](http://thenervousbreakdown.com))  
 "National Poetry Month Spotlight: TJ Beitelman," Black Lawrence Press  
 News ([blacklawrence.wordpress.com](http://blacklawrence.wordpress.com))

### WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, & INVITED TALKS

- 2017 "Something There Is that Doesn't Love a Wall: The Permeable Boundaries  
 Between Poetry and Prose," Alabama Writers' Conclave Annual  
 Conference, Hoover, AL
- 2016 "The Alpha and Omega of Stories: Why Beginnings and Endings Are So  
 Important," Alabama Writers' Conclave Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL
- 2015 Instructor, Sand Mountain Scholars Reading Group, Gorham's Bluff

- Institute, Pisgah, AL  
 Instructor, Young Adult Poetry Workshop, Homewood Public Library, Homewood, AL  
 Invited Talk, Homewood High School AP English Classes, Homewood, AL  
 Invited Talk, ENGL 6883: Graduate Poetry Workshop, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- 2011 Instructor, Creative Writing Pedagogy, Montevallo Literary Festival, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL
- 2010 Keynote Speaker, Writing Our Stories: a project of the Alabama Department of Youth Services and the Alabama Writers' Forum, Adele Goodwyn McNeel School, Birmingham, AL
- 2009 Invited Talk, "The Landscape of Contemporary Literary Publishing," English 223: Creative Writing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2008 Instructor, Hands on Art Workshops (Creative Writing), Birmingham Youth Leadership Forum, Birmingham, AL
- 2007 Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association Convention, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2006 Instructor, Writing Memoir and Creative Nonfiction, Gorham's Bluff Institute, Pisgah, AL
- 2004 Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Regional Tour, Auburn, AL
- 2003 Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Regional Tour, Huntsville, AL  
 Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Summer Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL  
 "Letting the Inmates Run the Asylum: Editorial Autonomy in Student Publications," Alabama Scholastic Press Association Summer Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

### Individual Awards

- 2007 Individual Artist Grant (Fiction), Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham
- 2002 Fellow in Literature (Nonfiction), Alabama State Council on the Arts
- 1999 Teaching/Writing Fellow, Program in Creative Writing, University of Alabama

### Organizational Projects

- 2017 Arts Education grant for the Ron Casey Visiting Authors' Series, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,500)  
 Arts Education grant for the Ron Casey Visiting Authors' Series, Alabama Humanities Foundation (\$2,000)
- 2010 Operational support for Gorham's Bluff Institute, Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$7,500)
- 2009 Performing Arts Organization grant for Gorham's Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet ("Dance Discovery"), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,200)  
 Visual Arts Organization grant for Gorham's Bluff Institute (Visual Arts Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,500)

- Literary Organization grant for *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$3,150)
- 2008 Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute (Sunday Performance Series), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$5,250)
- 2007 Project grant for Gorham’s Bluff Lecture Series, Alabama Humanities Foundation (\$1,988.69)
- Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute (Performances, Lectures, and Workshops), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$7,500)
- Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet (Summer Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$3,000)
- 2006 Performing Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet (Summer Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$5,910)
- 2005 Operational support for Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$15,000)
- Operational support for Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Alabama Civil Justice Foundation (\$2,000)
- Literary Organization grant for *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$4,200)
- 2000 Literary Journal Institute for *Black Warrior Review*, Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (workshop tuition and travel costs)

## HONORS & AWARDS

- 2011 Notables list, *2011 Best American Nonrequired Reading* (ed. Dave Eggers) for “Manna,” from the Fall 2010 *Bellevue Literary Review*
- 2008 Winner, Black River Poetry Chapbook Competition  
Winner, Dream Horse Press Poetry Chapbook Competition
- 2004 Finalist, Tupelo Press Snowbound Series Chapbook Award in Poetry
- 2003 Finalist, Tupelo Press Dorset Prize in Poetry
- 1998 Pushcart Prize nomination for “Rooster” in *Quarterly West*, no. 47
- 1996 Finalist, C. P. Chermiside Award for Best Graduate Independent Study, Department of English, Virginia Tech

## INVITED READINGS

- 2017 The University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL
- 2016 Pure Products Reading Series, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2015 Nitty Gritty Magic City Reading Series, Birmingham, AL
- 2014 Alabama Book Festival, Montgomery, AL  
TurnRow Book Company, Greenwood, MS  
The Indian Springs School, Indian Springs, AL
- 2013 The Loft at Falls Park, Greenville, SC  
Trobar Ric Reading Series, Oxford, MS  
Devil’s Lake & Black Lawrence Press AWP Off-Site Reading, Boston, MA
- 2011 The Montevallo Literary Festival, Montevallo, AL  
The Slash Pine Writers Festival, Tuscaloosa, AL

- 2009 The Slash Pine Press 20/59 Poetry Collision, Birmingham, AL  
 2008 Greencup Books Inaugural Bookfair, Birmingham, AL  
 2007 THE2NDHAND @ Art Walk 2007, Birmingham, AL  
 Alabama Writers' Symposium, Monroeville, AL

## **EDITING EXPERIENCE**

- Manuscript Consultant, Black Lawrence Press, 2015 – present  
 Contributing Editor/Webmaster, *Try 101: Practice. Process. Projects.* ([try101.org](http://try101.org)),  
 2012 – 2014  
 First Reader, Black River Chapbook Competition, Black Lawrence Press, 2012  
 Editor-in-chief, *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama School of Fine Arts, 2004 – 2009  
 Series Editor, *Red Mountain Review* Chapbook Contest, Alabama School of Fine Arts,  
 2004 – 2009  
 Bookfair Exhibitor (*Red Mountain Review*), AWP Conference & Bookfair, Austin, TX, 2006  
 Editor-in-chief, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2002  
 Associate Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2001  
 Editorial Assistant, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 1999 – 2001  
 Editor-in-chief, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing, University of  
 Alabama, 2000 – 2001  
 Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), Kentuck Arts Festival, Northport, AL, 1999, 2000  
 Bookfair Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), Deep South Festival of Writers,  
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA, 2000  
 Managing Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing, University of  
 Alabama, 1999 – 2000  
 Bookfair Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), AWP Conference & Bookfair, Albany, NY,  
 1999  
 Assistant Fiction Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing,  
 University of Alabama, 1999 – 2000  
 Assistant Poetry Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing,  
 University of Alabama, 1997 – 1999

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Member, Board of Directors, Alabama Writers' Conclave, 2016 – present  
 Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee, Alabama Writers' Conclave, 2016 – present  
 Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literary Organization Grants for  
 FY-2015, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2014  
 Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literature Fellowships for FY-2011,  
 Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2010  
 Arts Education Program Coordinator, Gorham's Bluff Institute, 2005 – 2009  
 Final Judge, Jack Murphy Memorial Award, National Federation of State Poetry  
 Societies, 2009  
 Final Judge, Literary Magazine Contest, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, 2007  
 Final Judge, Literary Magazine Contest, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, 2004  
 Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literary Organization Grants for  
 FY-2003, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2002



## **CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

### **Alabama School of Fine Arts**

Curator, Ron Casey Visiting Writers' Series, 2015 – present  
 Director, Creative Writing Outreach and Summer Programs, 2015 – present  
 Member (ex officio), Leadership Committee, 2015 – present  
 Coordinator, Aspiring Minds Regional High School Poetry Contests, 2015 – present  
 Coordinator, Alabama Young Writers' Literary Awards, 2009 – present  
 Editor/Webmaster, *CW @ ASFA* weblog (*asfa-cw.org*), 2009 – present  
 Faculty Advisor, *Cadence* (student literary magazine), 2015 – 2016  
 Member, Scholarship Committee, 2007 – 2008, 2010 – 2012, 2014 – 2016  
 Chair, Hiring Committee (Creative Writing Instructor), 2015  
 Member, Strategic Planning Committee on Curriculum & Instruction, 2014 – 2015  
 Sponsor, YWCA Heritage Panel to Promote Diversity and Inclusivity, 2013, 2015  
 Member, Hiring Committee (Director of Curriculum & Instruction), 2005  
 Member, Hiring Committee (College Advisor), 2005  
 Chair, Strategic Planning Committee on Student Support, 2003 – 2004

### **University of Alabama**

Member, Hiring Committee (Assistant Director of Student Media), University of Alabama, 2002  
 Member (ex officio), Media Planning Board, 1999 – 2001  
 Curator, M.F.A. Reading Series, Program in Creative Writing, University of Alabama, 1998

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

AWP Conference & Bookfair, 1999 (Albany), 2006 (Austin), 2013 (Boston), 2015 (Minneapolis), 2017 (Washington, D.C.)  
 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (contributing participant), Middlebury, VT, 2008  
 Centrum Foundation Autumn Writers' Intensive (contributing participant), Port Townsend, WA, 2008  
 Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) Literary Journal Institute, Minneapolis, MN, 2000

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Association of Writers & Writing Programs  
 Alabama Writers' Conclave  
 Alabama Writers' Forum