

**Sauk Valley Community College**  
**March 17, 2025**

**Action Item 4.9**

**Topic:** Faculty Appointment – English and Language Arts

**College Health Metric:** Academics – The College provides quality, contemporary, and relevant educational opportunities to the community

**Presented By:** Drs. David Hellmich and Jon Mandrell

**Presentation:**

The administration has been in the process of hiring an English and Language Arts faculty member. The position was advertised online on Sauk Valley Community College's website, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *HigherEdJobs.com*. The College received forty-one applicants. Four candidates were invited for an on-campus interview. A committee was composed of Ruth Montino, Sarah McFarlane, and Tom Irish. Dr. Patrice Hess, Dean of Transfer Programs and Academic Support Services, served as Chair.

*Academic Background:* Christopher Lowe received his Master's in Fine Arts in Creative Writing and his Master's in English from McNeese State University. He received his Bachelor's in English from Mississippi University for Women.

*Professional Background:* Christopher has been employed by Northern Illinois University as the Director of Student Success and as a Program Advisor. He is employed by the College of DuPage as an adjunct instructor, and he is an adjunct instructor for the University of Chicago. He also worked at McNeese State University as a Professor and Instructor of English and Creative Writing for 14 years.

**Recommendation:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Christopher Lowe as a Professor of English and Language Arts beginning August 8, 2025, at an annual base salary of \$78,962.76.

Christopher Lowe

14 November 2024

Dear Search Committee,

I am thrilled to apply for the open English/Language Arts Faculty position at Sauk Valley Community College.

As an educator, I have experience in a wide-range of English and Creative Writing courses at the undergraduate level, including working with developmental writers and English Composition students. At McNeese State, I taught every student population, from dual-enrollment high school students all the way to third-year graduate students. This included experience in ENGL 090: Developmental English, a course which was designed for students who entered the university below the required ACT threshold for the school. McNeese is a small, regional, state university that serves a student population that has a high percentage of PELL recipients, first-gen college students, and English language learners. Serving these student populations as they worked to develop their writing skills was one of the true joys of my teaching career. At McNeese, I earned numerous teaching awards, including the Highest Annual Performance Review award in the Department of English and several endowed professorships. Currently, I teach English and Creative Writing courses at College of DuPage and editing courses for the University of Chicago's Editing Certificate program.

At both McNeese and in my current role at Northern Illinois University, I've been deeply involved in supporting the work of my departments and colleges outside of the classroom as well as in. At McNeese, I served as the English Education program coordinator, a role that necessitated significant curricular development, including the creation of new courses designed to address specific student learning needs. At NIU, I serve on the College of Education's Curriculum Committee, and I've worked closely with faculty on curricular work, including revisions of academic programs. I have substantial experience with assessment and accreditation, having drafted multiple accreditation reports that earned full recognition from national accrediting bodies, and I've successfully implemented assessment plans within my departments and programs. I also believe firmly in a collaborative, team-building approach. I've successfully worked with stakeholders both within my individual units and across campus, and I pride myself on fostering strong working relationships with fellow team members. Being an engaged member of my campus communities is important to me, and I've always made it a goal to work actively for the betterment of my institutions both in the classroom and out.

In my academic work, I write across genres, with a primary focus in short fiction and a secondary interest in creative non-fiction. I'm the author of *Those Like Us: Stories* (SFASU Press, 2011), *Make Some Wretched Fool to Pay: Stories* (University of Louisiana Press, 2024), and the prose chapbooks *When You're Down By the River: Stories* (BatCat Press), *You're the Tower: Essays* (Yellow Flag Press), and *A Guest of the Program*, winner of the *Iron Horse Literary Review* Chapbook Prize. My writing has appeared widely in journals including *Brevity*,

Christopher Lowe

*Quarterly West, Bellevue Literary Review, Greensboro Review, and Booth.* In addition to my creative work, I also publish works on narrative design and structure, and I am currently under contract with Bloomsbury Academic for a writing textbook titled *Stack, Build Write: A Guide to Crafting Modular and Non-Linear Fiction*. That book will be released internationally in 2026.

In Fall 2020, I was displaced from south Louisiana with my family by two hurricanes. The climate crisis and the loss of our home led to our relocation to the Northern Illinois region. While I love the work that I do at NIU, leaving a faculty role was difficult, and I miss teaching full time. Attached is my CV, teaching philosophy, and transcripts. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss my experience, qualifications, or passion for this position.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lowe



## Curriculum Vitae

**Christopher Lowe**

### **Education:**

2004-2007 McNeese State University  
MFA in Creative Writing, May 2007 (Terminal)

MA in English, May 2007

2000-2004 Mississippi University for Women  
BA in English, May 2004

### **University Experience:**

2023-Present Director of Student Success, College of Education, Northern Illinois University,  
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115

Service: Advising Director for College of Education

Committees: University Strategic Enrollment Management 2.0 Administrative Processes and Barriers Working Group (co-chair), University General Education Committee, General Education Philosophy Working Group, College of Education Senior Leadership Senate, University Advising Directors, University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure, UCIEL Placements and Partnerships Subcommittee, College of Education Curriculum Committee, Teacher Education Committee, Elementary Education Program Committee, Middle Level Teaching and Learning Program Committee

Courses: TLEE 492: Special Topics in Elementary Education

2024-Present Adjunct Instructor, College of DuPage

Courses: ENGLI 2250: Introduction to Creative Writing

2021-Present Instructor, Editing Certificate Program, University of Chicago

Courses Developed and Taught: EDIT 21600: Developmental Editing for Fiction

2022-2023 Assistant Director of Student Success/Interim Director of Student Success,  
College of Education, Northern Illinois University, 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy.,  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Service: Interim Director of the Office for Student Success

Committees: College of Education Senior Leadership Senate, University Advising Directors, University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure, UCIEL Placements and Partnerships Subcommittee, College of Education Curriculum Committee, Elementary Education Program Committee, Middle Level Teaching and Learning Program Committee

2021-2022      Program Advisor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Northern Illinois University, 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115

Programs advised: Middle Level Teaching and Learning, Elementary Education (on-campus), Elementary Education (PLEDGE program offered in conjunction with Elgin Community College)

Committees: University Committee on Initial Educator Licensure, UCIEL Placements and Partnerships Subcommittee, Elementary Education Program Committee, Middle Level Teaching and Learning Program Committee, Middle Level MAT Planning Committee, Middle Level 2+2 Planning Committee, U46 Subsequent Endorsement Planning Committee

2015-2021      Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing, Department of English and Foreign Languages, McNeese State University, Box 92655, Lake Charles, LA 70609

Graduate Courses: ENGL 548: Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction, ENGL 672: Creative Writing Workshop (Fiction), ENGL 675: Form and Theory of Fiction I, ENGL 676: Form and Theory of Fiction II, ENGL 680: Directed Research in Literature, ENGL 690: Professional Endeavors, ENGL 699: Thesis

Undergraduate Courses: ENGL 102: English Composition II, ENGL 203: Introduction to Literature (Fiction), ENGL 272: Creative Writing Workshop (Fiction), ENGL 361: Advanced Composition, ENGL 448: Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction

Service: MFA Program Primary Fiction Faculty, Online MA Program Coordinator, English Education BA Program Coordinator, Academic Advisor (graduate and undergraduate), Fiction Visiting Writer Series Coordinator

Committees: MFA Program Faculty, Secondary Advisory Council, English Education Curriculum Review Committee (Chair, 2015-2016)

Endowed Professorships Received: Juliet Hardtner Women in Arts and Humanities Professorship (2020-2021), Juliet Hardtner Women in Arts and Humanities Professorship (2020-2021), Shearman Professorship in Creative Writing (2020-2021), Shearman Professorship in Creative Writing (2019-2020), JP Morgan Chase Endowed Professorship (2016-2017)



MFA Fiction Thesis Committees: Ladi Opaluwa (2021 – Chair), Sarah Harshbarger (2020 – Chair), Candace Hartsuyker (2020 – Chair), Savannah Wingo (2020 – Chair), Gerald Withers (2020 – Chair), Elliot Kaiser (2019 – Chair), Ashlee Lhamon (2019 – Chair), Anh Mai (2019 – Chair), Sarah Elissa Matalone (2018 – Chair), Ben Gilbert (2018), Gage Saylor (Chair – 2018), Avee Chaudhuri (Chair – 2017), Paul Hansen (Chair – 2017), Melanie Ritzenthaler (Chair – 2017), Justin Eleff (Chair – 2016), Talisha Shelley (Chair – 2016), Victoria Castells (2016)

MFA Poetry Thesis Committees: Maegan Gonzales (2021), Liz Adair (2020), Matthew Moniz (2020), Laniesha Brown (2019), Travon Godette (2019), Tyler Sheldon (2019), Andrew Wittstadt (2019), Jessica Frank (2018), Brett Hanley (2018), Lauren Howton (2018)

MA Fiction Thesis Committees: Jennifer Anderson (2019 – Chair), Luke Alphonso (2019 – Chair), Tonya Kopecky (2018 – Chair), Jessica Williams (2018 – Chair)

MA Comprehensive Exam Committees: Ladi Opaluwa (2020), Savannah Wingo (2020), Gerald Withers (2020), Candace Hartsuyker (2019), Laniesha Brown (2019), Travon Godette (2019), Sarah Harshbarger (2019), Ashlee Lhamon (2019), Anh Mai (2019), Sarah Elissa Matalone (2018), Elliot Kaiser (2018), Andrew Wittstadt (2018), Jessica Frank (2018), Brett Hanley (2018), Lauren Howton (2018), Gage Saylor (2018), Melanie Ritzenthaler (2017), Talisha Shelley (2016), Justin Eleff (2016)

2007-2015     Instructor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, McNeese State University, Box 92655, Lake Charles, LA 70609

Graduate Courses: ENGL 672: Creative Writing Workshop (Fiction), ENGL 676: Form and Theory of Fiction II

Undergraduate Courses: ENGL 101: English Composition I, ENGL 102: English Composition II, ENGL 101: Dual Enrollment (High School) English Composition I, ENGL 102: Dual Enrollment (High School) English Composition II, ENGL 202: Survey of English Literature, ENGL 203: Introduction to Literature (Fiction), ENGL 204: Introduction to Literature (Poetry and Drama), ENGL 272: Creative Writing Workshop (Fiction) ENGL 311: Development of the American Novel, ENGL 361: Advanced English Composition, ENGL 442: Fiction Writing Workshop

New Courses Developed: ENGL 400: Research Practicum in English Education



Service: English Education BA Program Coordinator (2009-2015), Academic Advisor

Committees: McNeese MFA Program Faculty, BA in English Master Plan Committee, College of Liberal Arts Endowed Professor Selection Committee, Instructor of English and Technical Writing Hiring Committee, Secondary Advisory Council, Standard 2 Committee for NCATE Institutional Report Preparation, Department of English and Foreign Languages Grading Committee, English Education Curriculum Review Committee (Chair), Foreign Languages Education Curriculum Review Committee

MFA Fiction Thesis Committees: Jennifer Alandy Trahan (2015), Katya Cummins (2015), Eric Nguyen (2015), Ellen Frazel (2014), Todd Gray (2014), Sarah Heying (2014), Travis Ver Hey (2014), Kelly Chase (Chair - 2013), Allie Mariano (2013), J.D. Hibbits (2012), Brittany Moore (2012), W. Scott Thomason (2012)

MFA Poetry Thesis Committees: Nayelly Barrios (2014), Rachel Rhinehart (2014)

MA Comprehensive Exam Committees: Jennifer Alandy (2015), Katya Cummins (2015), Eric Nguyen (2015), Nayelly Barrios (2014), Ellen Frazel (2014), Todd Gray (2014), Sarah Heying (2014), Rachel Rhinehart (2014), Travis ver Hey (2014), Allie Mariano (2013), Kelly Chase (2012), J.D. Hibbits (2012), Brittany Moore (2012), W. Scott Thomason (2012)

Additional Training: Introduction to Online Course Design - Moodle (2011), Introduction to Online Course Design – Blackboard (2010)

#### **Accreditation and Program Development:**

2023	Drafted plan for 2+2 agreement with McHenry County College for Northern Illinois University Early Childhood Education program to be delivered at MCC University Center
2022	Drafted successful curriculum change initiative for Elementary Education B.S.ed. program for Northern Illinois University
2022	Drafted plan for 2+2 agreement with Rock Valley College for Northern Illinois University Middle Level Teaching and Learning program
2019	Wrote and submitted successful CAEP SPA program accreditation report for Department of English and Department of Education at Sam Houston State University
2016	Wrote and submitted successful CAEP SPA program accreditation report for McNeese State English Education program
2015	Created and designed Online MA in Creative Writing degree at McNeese State, with approval from Louisiana Board of Regents
2014	Wrote and submitted successful NCTE program accreditation report for McNeese State English Education program

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|------|--|
| 2013 | Completed McNeese State English Education degree re-design for submission to Louisiana Board of Regents          |
| 2010 | Contributed to McNeese State Department of Education NCATE accreditation report                                  |
| 2009 | Wrote and submitted successful NCTE SPA program accreditation report for McNeese State English Education program |

**Technical Proficiencies:**

Ellucian Banner  
 Ellucian DegreeWorks  
 Navigate  
 PeopleSoft  
 OnBase  
 LiveText  
 Microsoft Office Suite  
 Adobe Creative Suite  
 Wordpress  
 Moodle course delivery software  
 Blackboard course delivery software  
 Canvas course delivery software  
 Brightspace course delivery software

**Editorial Experience:**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-Present | Contributing Editor, <i>Story Magazine</i>               |
| 2018-2021    | Editor, <i>McNeese Review</i>                            |
| 2014-2018    | Nonfiction Editor, <i>Midway Journal</i>                 |
| 2013-2016    | Reader, <i>Electric Literature's Recommended Reading</i> |
| 2011-2016    | Assistant Fiction Editor, <i>Fifth Wednesday Journal</i> |
| 2014-2015    | Managing Editor, <i>Friends of Atticus</i>               |
| 2011-2013    | Editor, <i>Trigger</i>                                   |
| 2008-2010    | Board of Editors, <i>Fiction Weekly</i>                  |

**Book Publications:**

*Stack, Build, Write: A Guide to Crafting Modular and Non-Linear Fiction*. London, UK: Bloomsbury Academic, (under contract, forthcoming)  
*Make Some Wretched Fool to Pay: Stories*. Lafayette, LA: University of Louisiana Press, (forthcoming, 2024)  
*Those Like Us*. Nacogdoches, TX: Stephen F. Austin State University Press, (2011).

**Chapbook Publications:**

*A Guest of the Program: Stories*. Lubbock, TX: Iron Horse Literary Review, (2018).  
*You're the Tower: Essays*. Lafayette, LA: Yellow Flag Press, (2016).

**Limited Edition Chapbook Publications:**

*When You're Down By the River: Stories*. Midland, PA: BatCat Press, (2014).



**Short Fiction Publications:**

"Fathers and Daughters and Mothers and Sons" *Grist* (2024)  
"Hashbrowns" *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature* (2022)  
"The Other Dog" *Booth* (2021)  
"Absence" *Yemassee* (2021)  
"Lake Charles" *Product Magazine* (2021)  
"County Land" *The Florida Review* (2020)  
"A Prayer to the Sports Gods" *BULL* (2020)  
"Snowless Winter Abecedarian" *BULL* (2020)  
"The Somethingoranother's Daughter" *Quarterly West* (2020)  
"The Grate" *Permafrost Magazine* (2019)  
"Make Some Wretched Fool to Pay" *Greensboro Review* (2018)  
"The Coach's Daughter" *Barely South Review* (2018)  
"The Bagman" *Yalobusha Review* (2017)  
"Flood, Rotunda, Ash" *WhiskeyPaper* (2017)  
"Field Vision" *Atticus Review* (Fall 2016)  
"Five Star" *Deep South Magazine* (Summer 2016)  
"These People" *Fiction Southeast* (Fall 2014)  
"Kudzu" *Ostrich Review* (Spring 2014)  
"A Guest of the Program" *Blue Lyra Review* (Spring 2014)  
"When You're Down By the River" *Pembroke Magazine* (Spring 2014)  
"Offender" *Steel Toe Review* (Fall 2013)  
"Uncle Frank" *Beecher's Magazine* (Summer 2013)  
"Once Upon a Time in Mississippi" *Grist* (Spring 2013)  
"Reform, AL" *Baltimore Review* (Winter 2012)  
"Dunn's River Falls" *War, Literature, and the Arts* (Fall 2011)  
"The Eighteenth Hole" *Escape Into Life* (Summer 2011)  
"A Fighter in His Youth" *Crate* (Summer 2011)  
"How to Dance with a Shorter Man" *Fiction365* (Winter 2011)  
"Harrison's Famous Pulled Pork" *971 MENU* (Winter 2011)  
"Another Tree in the Weyerhaeuser Field" *Swamp Lily Review* (Winter 2011)  
"Robards + Redbarn" *Zahir* (Winter 2011)  
"Oxygen" *Bananafish* (Summer 2010)  
"Those Like Us" *Third Coast* (Spring 2010)  
"X and O" *New Plains Review* (Spring 2010)  
"The Egg Bowl" *Bellevue Literary Review* (Spring 2009)  
"Sirens" *Superstition Review* (Fall 2008)  
"A Pattern of Chaos" *Fiction Weekly* (Summer 2008)

**Creative Nonfiction Publications:**

"Snake" *New South* (Winter 2016)  
"Sport" *Rappahannock Review* (Spring 2015)  
"You're the Tower, and I am Rapunzel, She Says" *Brevity* (Winter 2015)  
"Me and Travis McGee" *Pembroke Magazine Online* (Summer 2014)  
"A Brief Discourse on the Nature of Multiple Realities Inspired By My Two Year Old" *Gravel*



(Fall 2013)

"Taren" *Barely South Review* (Fall 2012)

"Another Fake Princess" *The Splinter Generation* (Summer 2011)

**Poetry Publications:**

"Barrier" *Vine Leaves Literary Journal* (Fall 2012)

"On Watching Jersey Shore With My Young Daughter" *Rougarou* (Spring 2012)

"Stadium" *Sport Literate* (Spring 2012)

"Small Lessons" *Sport Literate* (Spring 2012)

"Training Camp" *Stymie* (Spring 2011)

**Anthology Publications:**

"Drop Your Head, Friend" *Excavating Honesty: An Anthology of Rage and Hope in America* (2017)

"Offender" *Steel Toe Review Annual Print Anthology* (Spring 2014)

"Barrier" *Vine Leaves Literary Journal Best of 2012 Anthology* (Winter 2012)

"Robards + Redbarn" *Zahir Anthology 2011* (Winter 2011)

"Mind Games" *Mind Games Anthology*, 6S (Summer 2010)

"The Green Bike" *The Green Bike Anthology*, 6S (Summer 2010)

"A Pattern of Chaos" *Best of the Net 2008*, Sundress Publications (Spring 2009)

**Essay, Editorial, Craft, and Pedagogy Publications:**

"Why I Write" *Fiction Southeast* (Winter 2015)

"The Story Behind the Story: 'These People'" *Fiction Southeast* (Fall 2014)

"Scars and Dirt: Why I Teach the Modular Story" *Fiction Writers Review* (Spring 2014)

"Burn it Down" *Passages North: Writers on Writing* (Fall 2013)

"Speaking of Risk: Q&A with Michael Farris Smith" *Sundog Lit* (Fall 2013)

"Speaking of Risk: Engaging Stereotypes" *Sundog Lit* (Summer 2013)

"Speaking of Risk: Planning, Plotting, and the Unknown" *Sundog Lit* (Summer 2013)

"Speaking of Risk: Repetition" *Sundog Lit* (Spring 2013)

"Introducing Speaking of Risk" *Sundog Lit* (Spring 2013)

"A Few Thoughts on the Nature of Earned Risk in Fiction" *Fifth Wednesday Journal* (Fall 2012)

"Compression Statement" *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts* (Summer 2012)

"Introduction: The Extremes" *Trigger* (Winter 2012)

"Make the Stomach Believe" *Trigger* (Summer 2011)

"Introduction" *Trigger* (Summer 2011)

**Book, Chapbook, and Literary Magazine Reviews:**

"Kentucky Lit Mag Showcases Violence and Beauty: Review of *Georgetown Review*" *The Review Review* (Fall 2014)

"If There's Any Truth in a Northbound Train by Ryan Werner" *Friends of Atticus* (Summer 2014)

"Someone Else's Wedding Vows by Bianca Stone" *Friends of Atticus* (Summer 2014)

"Longstanding Tennessee Lit Mag on 'The Dance of Poetry': Review of *The Sewanee Review*" *The Review Review* (Summer 2014)

"Wilmot Here, Collect for Stella by Christian Anton Gerard" *Friends of Atticus* (Spring 2014)



"Flood by J. Bruce Fuller" *Friends of Atticus* (Spring 2014)  
 "Lit Mag Dazzles With Diverse Array of Styles and Themes: Review of *Confrontation*" *The Review Review* (Spring 2014)  
 "Casualties by Kirsten Clodfelter" *Friends of Atticus* (Winter 2014)  
 "Poems that Take Risks, Poems that Teach Us How to See: Review of *ABZ*" *The Review Review* (Winter 2014)  
 "Rose by Li-Young Lee" *Friends of Atticus* (Winter 2013)  
 "Shotgun Style by Delaney Nolan" *As It Ought to Be* (Fall 2013)  
 "In the House upon the Dirt between the Lake and the Woods by Matt Bell" *Friends of Atticus* (Fall 2013)  
 "Lit Mag's 25th Anniversary Finds Beauty in Reflection: Review of *Briar Cliff Review*" *The Review Review* (Fall 2013)  
 "Swing Your Sword by Mike Leach" *Friends of Atticus* (Fall 2013)  
 "Room Service by Ron Carlson" *Friends of Atticus* (Fall 2013)  
 "Rivers by Michael Farris Smith" *Friends of Atticus* (Summer 2013)  
 "Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives by Brad Watson" *Friends of Atticus* (Summer 2013)  
 "This Is How You Lose Her by Junot Díaz" *Friends of Atticus* (Spring 2013)  
 "Galilee by Clive Barker" *Friends of Atticus* (Winter 2013)

#### **Scholarly Publications:**

Contributing Writer, *Bridging the Gap: Researching and Writing* by Delma McLeod-Porter and Shonell Bacon. Fountainhead Press, 2005

#### **Awards and Honors:**

2021	Semi-finalist, Black Lawrence Press Big Moose Prize for the Novel for <i>Field Vision</i>
2021	Nominee, <i>Best Small Fictions</i> anthology for "The Somethingoranother's Daughter"
2020	Nominee, <i>Best of the Net 2020</i> anthology for "The Somethingoranother's Daughter"
2018	Longlist, <i>Wigleaf</i> Top 50 Very Short Fictions of 2017 for "Flood, Rotunda, Ash"
2017	Winner, Iron Horse Literary Review Single Author Competition for <i>A Guest of the Program: Stories</i>
2016	Highest Annual Performance Review score, Department of English, McNeese State University
2014	Highest Annual Performance Review score, Department of English, McNeese State University
2014	Finalist, Ropewalk Press Editor's Fiction Chapbook Prize for <i>A Guest of the Program</i>
2014	Fiction Scholar, <i>Virginia Quarterly Review</i> Writers' Conference
2013	Longlist, <i>storySouth</i> Million Writers Award Notable Story of 2012 for "Reform, AL"
2013	Finalist, Ropewalk Press Editor's Fiction Chapbook Prize for <i>When You're Down By the River: Stories</i>
2013	1st Place, <i>Beecher's Magazine</i> Fiction Contest for "Uncle Frank"
2012	Finalist, <i>Iron Horse Literary Review</i> Single-Author Competition for <i>X&amp;O</i> :



*Stories*, a chapbook  
 2011 Nominee, Pushcart Prize 2012 for "Harrison's Famous Pulled Pork"  
 2010 Finalist, Stephen F. Austin State University Press Fiction Prize for *Those Like Us: Stories*

#### **Competitions Juried:**

Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Student Fiction Contest (Summer 2022)  
 Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Student Fiction Contest (Summer 2019)  
 Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Student Fiction Contest (Summer 2018)  
 Bayou Writers Group Nonfiction Contest (Fall 2014)  
 Bayou Writers Group Fiction Contest (Fall 2013)  
 Midland Community College Fiction Contest (Spring 2012)

#### **Residencies and Conferences:**

Taleamor Park Artists/Writers Residency (Summer 2018)  
 Virginia Quarterly Review Writers' Conference (Summer 2014)

#### **Public Readings and Events:**

Yellow Bird Books Writers Series, Aurora, IL (April 2024)  
 McNeese State University MFA Visiting Writers Series, Lake Charles, LA (April 2022)  
 Yemassee Issue Launch Reading (July 2021)  
 In Conversation with Eric Nguyen, author of *Things We Lost to the Water*, for Calcasieu Parish Public Library (May 2021)  
 Product Magazine Launch Party (March 2021)  
 Quarterly West and Western Humanities Review AWP Off-site Reading, San Antonio, TX (March 2020)  
 Taleamor Park Residents Public Reading (Summer 2018)  
 McNeese State University MFA Visiting Writers Series, Lake Charles, LA (February 2018)  
 Illuminations Reading Series, Sowela Technical College, Featured Writer, Lake Charles, LA (December 2017)  
 Five at Five Reading, Lafayette, LA (May 2016)  
 Short Story Panel, South Central MLA Convention, Austin, TX (October 2014)  
 Virginia Quarterly Review Writer's Conference, Charlottesville, VA (August 2014)  
 Mississippi Reading Association Conference, Vicksburg, MS (December 2013)  
 Illuminations Reading Series, Sowela Technical College, Featured Writer, Lake Charles, LA (March 2013)  
 Eudora Welty Writer's Symposium, Featured Writer, Columbus, MS (October 2012)  
 McNeese State University MFA Visiting Writer Series, Lake Charles, LA (February 2012)  
 First Friday Reading Series, Lake Charles, LA (May 2011)  
 Ponyfest, Lake Charles, LA (September 2007)

#### **Presentations/Panels Given:**

"Crossing the Finish Line: The Effect of Culturally Responsive Programs on Multilingual Teacher Candidates," panelist, National Association for Bilingual Education Conference, New Orleans, LA (panel accepted for March 2024)  
 "Career in Publishing: Working with Fiction," panelist, University of Chicago, virtual (August 2023)



2023)

- “Managing Literary Magazine Transitions,” moderator, Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, San Antonio, TX (March 2020)
- “Embracing Risk in the Writing Process” Guest Lecture, Bayou Writers Group (Spring 2014)
- “Diversified Approaches to the Creative Writing Classroom” Featured Presenter, Mississippi Reading Association Conference (December 2013)
- “Camping and Marching: Scene Decisions and Development” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Creative Writing, Mississippi University for Women (October 2012)
- “Designing Effective Writing Assignments” President’s Faculty Retreat, McNeese State University (August 2012)
- “Introverts and Leadership” Hearin Leadership Conference, Mississippi University for Women (January 2006)

**Public Events Coordinated:**

- MFA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Alumni Reading Series featuring Adam Johnson, Morri Creech, and Eric Nguyen, McNeese State University (April 2022)
- MFA Graduate Reading featuring Ladi Opaluwa, Shannon Wolf, Maegan Gonzales, and Gauri Awasthi, McNeese State University (May 2021)
- Shruti Swamy virtual public reading for *A House is a Body*, McNeese State University (April 2021)
- MFA Graduate Reading featuring Sarah Harshbarger, Gerald Withers, Candace Hartsuyker, Savannah Wingo, Liz Adair, and Matthew Moniz, Arman Avasia, McNeese State University (May 2020)
- “For the Love of Listening,” an Association of Writers and Writing Programs Off-Site reading for *The McNeese Review*, *The Yalobusha Review*, and *The Hunger* (March 2020)
- The McNeese Review* booth at The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Bookfair (March 2020)
- Katie Cortese public reading for *Make Way for Her*, McNeese State University (February 2020)
- Kristen Arnett public reading for *Mostly Dead Things*, McNeese State University (November 2019)
- MFA Graduate Reading featuring Lee Matalone, Elliot Kaiser, Ashlee Lhamon, Anh Mai, Laniesha Brown, Travon Godette, Tyler Sheldon, and Andrew Wittstadt, McNeese State University (May 2019)
- Michael Horner public reading for *Damage Control*, McNeese State University (April 2019)
- The McNeese Review* booth at The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Bookfair (March 2019)
- Amina Gautier public reading for *The Loss of All Lost Things*, McNeese State University (February 2019)
- Michael Nye public reading for *All the Castles Burned*, McNeese State University (October 2018)
- MFA Graduate Reading featuring Gage Saylor, Ben Gilbert, Brett Hanley, Lauren Howton, and Jessica Frank, McNeese State University (May 2018)
- Deb Olen Unferth public reading for *Wait Till You See Me Dance*, McNeese State University (April 2018)
- Michael Knight public reading for *Eveningland*, McNeese State University (October 2017)
- MFA Graduate Reading featuring Avee Chaudhuri, Paul Hanson, Melanie Ritzenthaler, and

Cesca Waterfield, McNeese State University (May 2017)  
Mary Miller public reading for *Always Happy Hour*, McNeese State University (March 2017)  
Dustin M. Hoffman public reading for *One Hundred Knuckled Fist*, McNeese State University  
(September 2016)  
MFA Graduate Reading featuring Brittany Moore, Scott Thomason, and J.D. Hibbits, McNeese  
State University (May 2012)  
“Trauma Narratives” craft lecture by Adam Johnson, McNeese State University (April 2012)  
MFA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Alumni Reading Series featuring Adam Johnson, Morri  
Creech, and Neil Connelly, McNeese State University (April 2012)  
Thomas Fox Averill public reading for *Rode*, McNeese State University (February 2012)

**Professional Organizations:**

Association of Writers and Writing Programs