

Amanda Nowlin-O'Banion
Curriculum Vitae

Sam Houston State University
Department of English
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing
2007 **University of Houston** – Houston, Texas

- Dissertation: *The Greenest Grass*, a novel exploring one woman's struggles with land inheritance and labor division on her family's ranch

Director: Dr. Chitra Divakaruni; Committee: Antonya Nelson, Tiphonie Yanique, Karen Brennen, and Dr. Terrell Dixon

M.F.A. in Creative Writing: Fiction
2002 **New York University** – New York, New York

- Thesis: *The Greenest Grass*, a novel
- Director: Nicholas Christopher

B.A. in English—Specialty in Creative Writing
1999 **Southern Methodist University** – Dallas, Texas

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2011-Present **Sam Houston State University**, Clinical Assistant Professor
(Visiting Assistant Professor 2013-2015, Adjunct 2011-2013)

2014-Present Coordinator, National Book Awards Festival

2014-2016 Center for Community Engagement, Coordinator, Humanities and Social Sciences

Courses Taught:

Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction
Advanced Composition, as a creative nonfiction workshop
Introductory Creative Writing: Fiction
World Literature I, online, hybrid, and face-to-face sections
World Literature II, hybrid
Composition I

2007-2011 **Texas A&M University**, Lecturer
Courses Taught:
Introduction to Creative Writing
Advanced Fiction Workshop
Technical Writing, online and hybrid sections

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter:

"The Walls, TX--1987" *Literary Cash*. Dallas: BenBella, 2007. 77-93. Print.

Short Fiction:

"Retribution." *WhiskeyPaper* 2 June. 2013. Web. <www.whiskeypaper.com>.

"Rent-a-Gang." *Callaloo* 32.2 (2009): 438-39. Print.

"Wildflowers in Rye." *The Dallas Morning News*. *jTEX!* 3.1 (2000): 15-16. Print.

"Stop the River." *Conversely* 3 Apr. 2000. Web. <www.conversely.com>.

Creative Nonfiction:

"Boxing Day." *Liars' League NYC* (2012). Web. <www.liarsleaguenyc.com>.

"Darkness in Me." *Vandal* 1.1 (2009): 36-38. Print.

Interview:

"East of Amarillo" *Gulf Coast* 19.1 (2007): 304-11. Print.

Poetry:

"Orange Gladiolas." *Garcia's Kitchen* 3 (1997): 31. Print.

AWARDS/GRANTS

2012 Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty in English, Sam Houston State University

2011 Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University

2010 Barbara Deming Award for Feminist Artists, for *The Greenest Grass* (\$750)

2010 Jupp arts funding to conduct research in France for *The Greenest Grass* (\$2,500)

- 2010 Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University
- 2009 Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University
- 2006 Residency with Grace Paley, University of Houston
- 2005 Curriculum Grant to expand hybrid courses, University of Houston (\$2,300)
- 2003 Inprint Cambor Fellowship, University of Houston Creative Writing Program
- 2002 Nominated by New York University writing faculty, *Best New American Voices*
- 2001 St. Mary's Fellowship, Starworks Foundation (\$8,000)
- 2000 Full fellowship, New York University Creative Writing Program (\$52,000)
- 2000 ;*TEX!* Award for Emerging Writers
- 1999 Addy® for Copywriting, Fort Worth American Advertising Awards
- 1998 Southern Methodist University Fiction Prize
- 1997 David R. Russell Memorial Poetry Award

PRESENTATIONS/READINGS

- “Hiking Downtown.” American Studies Association of Texas Conference. Huntsville, 2014.
- “Nearing the Forty-ninth.” Sam Houston State University First Friday Faculty Forum. Huntsville, 2014.
- “Boxing Day.” *Liars’ League NYC*, publication and performance by Broadway lead Maggie Lacey. New York, 2012.
- “Using SecondLife to Teach Across the Disciplines.” TAMU Instructional Technology Service’s Teaching With Technology Conference. College Station, 2011.
- “Why SecondLife?” TAMU Instructional Technology Service’s Teaching With Technology Conference. College Station, 2010.
- Funded contributor, Community for Writers at Squaw Valley. Lake Tahoe, 2009.
- Promotional readings for *Literary Cash*. Houston, College Station, and Huntsville, 2007.
- “The Walls, TX – 1987.” Excerpt of *The Greenest Grass. Front Row*. NPR. KUHF, Houston. 24 Jan. 2007. Radio.
- Reading, *Gulf Coast* Series at Brazos Bookstore. Houston, 2007.
- Reading, Blaffer Gallery’s opening for the national traveling show, *Girls’ Night Out*. Houston, 2006.
- “Prolog.” Excerpt of *The Greenest Grass. Front Row*. NPR. KUHF. 12 Oct. 2005. Radio

Reading, *Gulf Coast* Series at Brazos Bookstore. Houston, 2005.

Reading, NYU Series hosted by Fales Library. New York, 2002.

Reading, NYU Series hosted by Liquids. New York, 2001.

Invited contributor to the Pam Houston Workshop, Creede, Colorado, 2000.

Contributor, Taos Summer Writer's Workshop with Pam Houston. Taos, New Mexico, 1999.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Creative:

What the Sky Can't Hold – memoir

Set in Alaska the summer of 2001 and in New York City the following fall, this book takes readers into two distinct communities to look at ways people voluntarily drop out of society. It chronicles work in a wilderness lodge deep within Denali National Park, the oddities of ultra-secluded populations, and considers my own seclusion inside America's biggest city after 9/11.

The Greenest Grass – a novel

This story follows fifteen-year old Meg who wants to be a cowboy. Her family keeps her far from the dangers of their ranch. But danger is seductive. It lures Meg to run away to a rodeo, the first of many catastrophic attempts at finding her place in the Texas cattle business. By 30, the same pursuits lead her across the Atlantic to run an exhibit farm in the Loire Valley. Shortly before her grandfather dies, he disinherits her. Meg leaves France (and a French farmer) hoping to finally find a way into the ranching world that never wanted her. While she waits for multiple wills to be reconciled, she has to decide what she'll do if she's not the next proprietor of Meriland Cattle Company.

Scholarly:

“Tilling Her Own: Establishing Eliza Lucas Pinckney as a Nature Writer”

This paper positions Eliza Lucas Pinckney as an early American secular nature writer and argues that Pinckney's *Letterbook* was a creative, multi-purposed work that served as a record of correspondence but also as a memoir.

LITERARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2013-present Organizer, National Book Awards at Sam Houston
NBA on Campus brings finalists to college campuses to promote literature and reading among students and the surrounding communities
- 2012-present Volunteer Writer-Instructor, National Book Foundation's BookUpTX
BookUp is an after school program that brings books to underserved middle-school children to encourage reading
- 2008-2012 Board Member, Brazos Valley Reads
BVR is the Bryan/College Station community's Big Read
- 2007-2011 Judge, Gordone Awards, Texas A&M University's fiction and nonfiction prizes

SERVICE

Editorial:

- 2017-2018 Nonfiction Editor, *Texas Review*
2011-2014 Contributing Editor, *Vandal*
Advisory Board: Angie Cruz, Emily Raboteau, Nellie Rosario, et al.
2006-2007 Nonfiction Editor, *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*
Published by University of Houston graduate Creative Writing Program

Community:

- 2007, 2010, & 2018 Volunteer Creative Writing Teacher, Wynne Home Arts Center

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2003-2007 **University of Houston**, Teaching Fellow
Courses Taught:
Introduction to Creative Writing
Introduction to Fiction
Introduction to Drama, online sections
Composition I and II, hybrid and face-to-face sections
- 2007, 2006, 2004 **Lee College**, Texas Department Criminal Justice, Adjunct in English
Courses Taught to inmates at Ferguson, Wynne, Estill, and Huntsville Units:
Introduction to Creative Writing
Composition I and II
- 2002-2003 **North Harris Montgomery Community College**, Adjunct in English
Courses Taught:
Composition I and II
- 2002 **New York University**, Adjunct in English
Course Taught:
Introduction to Creative Writing, mixed-genre workshop focused on urban nature writing
- 2001-2002 **St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Queens**, Creative Writing Fellow
Developed writing program for children 5-19 with an emphasis on radical creativity and edited the student/patient anthology, *St. Mary's Stars*

TEACHING INTERESTS

creative writing: prose
women and the wild
American nature writing
early American literature

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Writers and Writing Programs
American Studies Association of Texas
Modern Language Association