

Curtis L. Crisler

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing Indiana
University Purdue University Fort Wayne ·
Department of English & Linguistics · 2101 East
Coliseum Boulevard · Fort Wayne, IN 46805 · (260)
481-6769 (office) · crislerc@ipfw.edu

EDUCATION

- M.F.A., English (Creative Writing): Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, August 2004
- B.A., English: Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN, May 1999
Minor: Theatre
- A.A.S., Architectural Engineering Technology: ITT Technical Institute, Fort Wayne, IN, August 1985

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, IN:
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing 2008-
Introduction to Creative Writing
Creative Writing Poetry
Technical Report Writing
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing 2007-2008
Introduction to Creative Writing
Creative Writing Poetry
Technical Report Writing (Online)
Elementary Composition (LC)
- Limited Term-Lecturer, 2006-2007, 2004-2005
Elementary Composition (LC)
Technical Report Writing (Online)
Elementary Composition Practicum
- Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Fall 2005-Spring 2006
Introduction to Creative Writing
Creative Writing Poetry
Technical Report Writing

- Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL:
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2001-2004
Elementary Composition I
Elementary Composition II
Introduction to Creative Writing (fiction and poetry)

PUBLICATIONS - CREATIVE WRITING

Poetry

Books

Pulling Scabs. Detroit: Willow Books, Aquarius Press. 2009.

Spill. Nashville: Keyhole Press. 2008. (Chapbook).

Tough Boy Sonatas. Pennsylvania: Wordsong, Boyds Mills Press, Inc. 2007.

Audio book

Tough Boy Sonatas: (An unabridged performance by Kevin R. Free, Dion Graham, and JD Jackson; recorded by arrangement with Boyds Mills Press). Prince Frederick: Recorded Books, LLC (2008).

Journals and Magazines

“They will say” *anti-* (forthcoming)

“Overflow” *The November 3rd Club* (forthcoming)

“Before the (Re)showing of Medgar Evers, His Son Sits Alone” *African American Review (AAR)* (forthcoming).

“American Us” *Crab Orchard Review* (forthcoming)

“Catch” (reprinted) *Essence: (Obama Inauguration Special)* February (2009) 178.

“America” *The Ninth Letter Vol. 5, Issue 2* Fall + Winter (2008-9) 131.

“Return to Boomtowns,” and “What Mamie Till Gave the World” *Reverie: Midwest African American Literature Vol. 2*, Fall (2008) 35-38.

“Mary Jane and Chelsea” and “Suffocating in Ignorance.” *Elixir 6 (Special Double Issue)* (2008).

“Ephemeral,” and “Brace” *The Drunken Boat: Cave Canem Issue, Vol. 8, Issue III-IV* (2008). [<http://www.thedrunkenboat.com>].

“jennie.” *Arts Kaleidoscope Presents: Arts & Poems* (2008) 38.

“Brave New Words” and “Fornicating for Ars Poetica.” *The Amistad, Spring 2008* (2008) 31-32. [<http://www.coas.howard.edu/english/Amistad/Spring08/index2.html>].

“Ballin’” and “Julius Erving.” *The Amistad, Spring 2007* (2007) 103-104. [<http://www.coas.howard.edu/english/Amistad/Spring07/index.html>].

“Nomenclature for Jammin’,” “The Off Sista,” “My Friend, Constellation,” “Fanatics for Genius,” “Waving African Lilies,” “My Bad Singing to Your Healing Panty Line,” and “Don’t be pissin’ in my greens, woman” (“Don’t be pissin’ in my greens, woman” originally appeared in *Columbia Poetry Review No. 13* 2001). *Re)verb, Issue 4, Winter 2006* (2006) 35-45.

“Introduction,” “Elegy for Mister Rogers,” and “Beatdown in Baltimore.” *Callaloo*. 29:3 (2006) 803-807.

“Finding Gertrude Abercrombie’s eyes in elements.” *CUE: Journal of Prose Poetry, Vol. III, Issue I* (2006).

“Addiction,” “jivin’,” and “Stray.” *Sou’wester Vol. 32, No.2* (2004) 100-104.

“Catch,” “Demographics,” and “DAYDREAMER.” *WarpLand:Vol. 9, No. 2* (2003).

“Tennis Match.” *Callaloo Volume 26, No. 3, Summer* (2003).

“Chorus/sponding” and “Daughter/son soundtrack.” *Penumbra* (2003).

“Mama don’t take no mess” and “Robbing hoods.” *Obsidian III: Vol. 4, Number 2*
Fall/Winter (2002-2003).

“Red-Brick Dust” and “3 steps over.” *XCP: Cross-Cultural Poetics (Xcp 9)* (2001).

“Don’t be pissing on my greens, woman.” *Columbia Poetry Review No. 13* (2001).

“lobbiest” and “My Life In Traffic.” *XCP: streetnotes* (2000). [<http://www.xcp.bfn.org/fall2000.html>].

“Jay B. stands in the mirror.” *Columbia Poetry Review No. 12* (1999).

“Blueboy the philosopher,” “They say things in their gathering,” “Inductee,” “if you never got it (a father’s day poem)” and “The African Neighbor Lady.” *Obsidian II Volume 11, Numbers 1&2* (1996).

Anthologies

“Dear Reality.” *Our Common Suffering: Anthology of Poets in Memoriam 2008 Sichuan Earthquake*. Spring (2009).

“Spectaculations.” *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South: A Cave Canem Anthology*. Ed. Nikki Finney. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, (2007) 106.

“Sound” and “Black Whiskers.” *In the Eye: A Collection of Writings*. Ed. Katherine Tracy. Alamogordo: Thunder Rain Publishing Corp., (2007) 20, 123.

“The Down Low.” *Fingernails Across a Chalkboard: Anthology: Poetry and Prose on HIV/AIDS from the Black Diaspora*. Eds. Randall Horton, M.L. Hunter, and Becky Thompson. Chicago: Third World Press, (2007) 65.

“Robbing hoods.” *Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem’s First Decade*. Eds. Toi Derricotte, Cornelius Eady, and (Assist ed. Camille T. Dungy). Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, (2006) 46-47.

“The Children of the Trees.” *Only the Sea Keeps: Poetry of the Tsunami*. Ed. Judith Robinson, Joan E. Bauer, and Sankar Roy. Calgary: Bayeux Arts, Inc. (2005).

“Ode to Rain.” *The Fourth River: Nature and Culture* (2005).

“Mirrors.” *Cave Canem Anthology 2003*. (2003).

Book Reviews

Review for *Song of Thieves*. *Crab Orchard Review Vol.9, No. 2* (2004) 239-242.

Review for *How We Came to Stand on That Shore*. *Crab Orchard Review Vol. 9, No. 2*

(2004) 237-239.

Review for *Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing*. *Crab Orchard Review* Vol.8, No. 2 (2003) 252-255.

Fiction

“Coming Back Home.” *Pindeldyboz*. (January 2003). [<http://www.pindeldyboz.com/clc/home.htm>].

Nonfiction

Book

Leaving Me Behind: Writing a new me (Curtis L. Crisler and the Summer Bridge class of 2008). Lulu.com. (2009).

Drama

Last Stop to Dine. Sojourn: A Journal of the Arts. Spring/Summer (2003).

Essay

“From Hughes to Komunyakaa: The Major Influences in Poetics and Politics from a *Minor Genre*” (forthcoming)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Invited Speaker

Panelist at 2010 AWP Conference in Colorado (TBA).

Panel reading with Kevin McKelvey (University of Indianapolis) for “The Bones of Indiana: A Poetry Collaboration.” The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature (SSML): “The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium.” Michigan State University: East Lansing, (May 7-9) 2009.

“From Grammar School to Graduate and Law School: Building to Bridge the Achievement Gap”: Group Presentation: “Bridging the Gap Creatively Between University and Community” with Reginald Dwayne Betts, Randall Horton, Truth Thomas, and Jonathan Gray: Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC, May 17, 2008.

(Panel reading) “The Melodious Pondering of Place.” The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature (SSML): Michigan State University: East Lansing, (May 8-10) 2008.

“NCTE Poetry Blast” Annual Convention for National Council of Teachers of English. New York: New York, November 17, 2007.

(Paneled with author Ralph Fletcher at Appleseed Writing Project: 2nd Annual Conference: World Series Writers): “Going to Bat for Boy Writers and Other Reluctant Students: Who will step up to the plate?” Fort Wayne, Indiana, October 20, 2007.

Paneled with Floyd Cooper (illustrator of *Tough Boy Sonatas*) at 19th Annual Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written Word, at War Memorial Plaza. Nashville, Tennessee (October 12-14) 2007.

Presenter of “From Hughes to Komunyakaa: The Major Influences in Poetics and Politics from a *Minor Genre*” at International Symposium on Langston Hughes and the International

- Conference on 20th Century American Poetry. Wuhan, China, July 22, 2007.
- Chaired Panel 2 (Langston Hughes: His Art and Influence, 14:20-16:00) with Liu Guozhi at the International Symposium on Langston Hughes and the International Conference on 20th Century American Poetry. Wuhan, China, July 22, 2007.
- Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Institute “Creating Learning Environments” (Wayne State University): Group Presentation: “The Writer’s Notebook in a Multicultural Learning Community: An IPFW Summer Bridge Experience” by Mary Arnold Schwartz (Writing Center), Christopher Douse (Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs): Fall, 2007.
- GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS: CREATIVE ENDEAVOR**
- Calumet High School’s “5th Writer’s Workshop.” May 6, 2009.
- Academic Student Achievement Program!: Certificate of Appreciation (2009).
- The Eric Hoffer Book Award: “The Da Vinci Eye” for *Tough Boy Sonatas* (2009).
- Workshop/reader for “An Evening with Curtis Crisler” at the College of DuPage (COD): 2009 Writers Read Series, April 29, 2009.
- Host for 2009 Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Poetry/Rap SLAM. April 17, 2009.
- Guest on “Say It Loud! Readers and Writers: Bringing the Community Together Through Literature.” A live broadcast with host Patrick M. Oliver on Literary Nation KABF FM 88.3 Little Rock, AR. April 15, 2009.
- “Mike Moses Presents...Art & Soul of the City,” at Snickerz, March 15, 2009.
- Writing Celebration (featuring Curtis L. Crisler) at Northwood Middle School. February 27, 2009.
- Presenter for “From the Page to the Stage: Getting Young Men to Comprehend Literature” (Multimedia Presentation with Todd Roberts), Appleseed Writing Project’s “Pen—Voice—Empowerment: Engaging Learners in a Diverse Society”: IPFW. (Nov. 11, 2008).
- Reading with Ross Gay and Eugene Gloria at Boxcar Bookstore at IU Bloomington for the publication of *Spill* [the winning chapbook of Keyhole Magazine Chapbook Contest 2008]. (November 1, 2008).
- Arts Kaleidoscope Poets (collaboration of poets and artists) sponsored by Gallery 308. Muncie, Indiana, October 4, 2008.
- Calumet High School’s “4th Workshop for Aspiring Young Writers.” May 7, 2008.
- 10th Anniversary Southern Kentucky Book Fest, Bowling Green, Kentucky. April 19, 2008.
- Presenter at Allen County Main Library Branch for *Tough Boy Sonatas*. April 16, 2008.
- Writing Celebration (featuring Curtis L. Crisler’s *Tough Boy Sonatas*) at Northwood Middle

- School. February 29, 2008.
- Workshop/lecture on "The Bond of Modeling the Influences We Treasure, and How Those Influences Treat Us Right." Guest at residency for MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. Hamline University, Minnesota. July 18, 2007.
- Presenter at "Appleseed Writing Project's 2007 Summer Institute Presentation. IPFW. Fall, 2007.
- Reader for "The Young Writers Workshop." Southern Illinois University Carbondale. June 28-29 (2007).
- Workshop/presenter on "Your Influences Make You Who You Are." Mayor Daley's Book Club (Spring Conference) at Phillips Academy High School. Chicago, Illinois. May 19, 2007.
- Reading & Book Signing for "Words on the Go" Lafayette, Indiana. March 5, 2007.
- Reading & Book Signing at "Salute to African American Writers" (SAAW). Austin, Texas. February 22-24 (2007).
- Soul Mountain Retreat in Old Lyme, Connecticut. September 15-17 (2006).
- Graduated from Cave Canem and became a Cave Canem Fellow (3-year residency). Summer 2006.
- Featured Poet in *Re)verb, Issue 4, Winter* (2006).
- Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) for Individual Arts Project (IAP) grant (2006).
- Inauguration of president: Notre Dame University (2005).
- SIUC Women History Month Poetry Award, Honorable Mention, (2002).
- Sterling Plumpp First Voices Poetry Competition for "Son" (2002).
- Commissioned to create a poem for William Morris exhibit "Myth, Object, and the Animal" for the Fort Wayne Museum of Art (Spring, 2001).
- Artisan Poetry Competition*, "Today's My Funeral Mama," second prize, 1998.
- Artisan Poetry First Award Winner* for "Ernesto Lived an hour away," (1996).
- Great Men, Then and Now Award (student and author). February 25, 1995.
- Levan Scott Scholarship, 1995.
- William Watson Scholarship, 1994.
- SERVICE**
Professional, Administrative, and Editorial
 Undergraduate Studies and Assessment Committee (2009-)
 Arts & Sciences Faculty Affairs Committee (2009-)

Diversity Committee: Climate (2009-)
 Senate for the English & Linguistics Department (2009-)
 Coordinator for the IPFW Faculty/Student Reading Series (2009-2010)
 English Instructor, 2005-
 Summer Bridge (LC). Worked with filmmaker of *ReelNative*, Rebecca Nelson, who helped our students make five minute movies for their last project (2009)
 Leaving Me Behind: Writing a new me was published in August about the 2008 Summer Bridge class's last project that chronicles their six weeks at IPFW (2009)
 Promotion and Tenure Committee for English & Linguistics (2008-2009)
 Assistant Director for Young Writers Workshop, 2004
 Report directly to the coordinator, Allison Joseph, and assist with the preparation and facilitation of the summer program.
 Annual Young Writers Workshop (coordinator/facilitator) 2002-2003
 Teach creative writing classes, facilitate evening activities, encourage young writers, and monitor behavior).
 Assistant Editor, *Crab Orchard Review*, 2003
 Supervise and participate in copyediting, proofreading, fact checking, and reading submissions—also training interns.
 “Teaching Poetry to Elementary School Children: At the New School Project,” 2003
 Designed course for GAs to teach poetry at the New School.
Handbook for the Teaching of Creative Writing, 2003
 A collaboration with Allison Joseph and Graduate Assistants (a handbook for teaching creative writing: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction).
 Intern, *Crab Orchard Review*, 2002
 Copyedit, proofread, fact check, and read submissions.
 Editorial Panel, *The Dance Collective*, Fort Wayne, IN, 1999-2001
 Assist board in facilitating activities.

University

Panelist
 The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs presents “Still I Rise, The Influence of African-American Literature on Education,” February 18, 2009.
 Remnant Trust: “Lunch Discussion: The Emancipation Proclamation,” February 10, 2009.
 “The Significance of the African American Faculty Member” sponsored by The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (2008).
 Multimedia Presentation with Todd Roberts, November 11, 2008
 “From the Page to the Stage: Getting Young Men to Comprehend Literature,” Appleseed Writing Project’s “Pen—Voice—Empowerment: Engaging Learners in a Diverse Society”: IPFW.
 Group paper presenter, 2007
 Appleseed Writing Project: Inaugural Conference: of “The Writer’s Notebook in a Multicultural Learning Community: An IPFW Summer Bridge Experience” by Mary Arnold Schwartz (Writing Center), Christopher Douse (Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs).
 Faculty Reader, 2006
 IPFW Faculty/Student Reading Series.
 University participant, 2005
 Study Circle (IPFW).
 University participant, 2004

Peace, Prayer, Non-Violence.
 President, 1998
 Forensics Team, IPFW—Report directly to Sarah Nictor, and assist with the preparation of team events and support team members.

Community Service

Featured Artist

First Fridays reading series with Sarah Sandman, September 4, 2009.
 The Acoustic Coffeehouse for TRIAAC, June 27, 2009.

Speaker

Towles school for a group of at risk youth. Spring (2009).

Panelist

First Caucus Conference: Session One: “Dream More, Want More, and Expect More...Do More It is your History—Where are we going as a people?” (2007).
 African American Male Perspective Program: “ASAP! Retention Talk/Luncheon” (2007).
 Men of Color Think Tank Forum: IPFW (2006).

Facilitator/coordinator

Saluki Poetry Project, Main Library, Carbondale, Illinois, (2003).

Creative Writing Teacher

(Poetry) at New School, Carbondale, Illinois (2002-2003).

Co-creator of conception and installation (with Melissa Vandenberg)

“i” (a collaborative Art Project at surplus gallery @ the glove factory)
 Carbondale, Illinois, 2002.

Presented and gave instructions on poetry

Workshop for Department of Youth Services, Columbus, Ohio, 2000.

Mastering the Possibilities as a peer facilitator for Multicultural Services.

AFFILIATIONS

AWP

Cave Canem Fellow

CCCC

College English

Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne Alumni

National Council of Teachers of English

Poets & Writers