

MELISSA DICKSON JACKSON

Curriculum Vitae

Updated Fall 2023

Department of General Education, University College, University of West Georgia
MJackson@westga.edu

TEACHING INTERESTS

Creative and Professional Writing, Literature, Rhetoric, Art

EDUCATION

MFA Creative and Professional Writing. Converse College. Spartanburg, SC. 2012.

MFA Studio Arts, Painting. School of Visual Arts. New York, New York. 1995.

BFA Studio Arts, Painting (Concentrations in Poetry, Performance of Literature). Auburn University, AL. 1992.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Lecturer, English Composition and American Literature, University of West Georgia, Spring 2021-Present

Instructor, English Composition and American Literature, University of West Georgia, Fall 2015-Fall 2020

Adjunct Instructor, English Composition, University of West Georgia, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Adjunct Instructor, English Composition, West Georgia Technical College. Fall 2014

COMMITTEE SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

At the Core Conference Committee, Chair, University of West Georgia, University College, 2024

First Year Writing Committee. University of West Georgia, Department of General Education. 2023-2025

Community Engagement Committee. University of West Georgia, Department of General Education. 2022-2024

Faculty Status Committee, University of West Georgia, Department of General Education. 2022-2024.

“At the Core” Conference Committee, University College. University of West Georgia. 2022-2023.

Chairs Advisory Committee, General Education. University of West Georgia. 2022-2024.

Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Standing Senate Committee. General Education Instructor Representative.
UWG. 2020-2021.

English Department Recruitment Committee. As a committee member, I produced marketing collateral designed to help promote the department and inspire students. 2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Rollicking Research: Supporting Student Engagement with Innovative Research Protocols.” Innovations in Pedagogy Conference. University of West Georgia. May 2023

“Automated Assessment: A Sustainable and Easy Way to Support Students, Transform Learning, and Ease the Load.” Innovations in Pedagogy Conference. University of West Georgia. May 2022.

“Flippin’ Fun: Using Peer to Peer Teaching to Maximize Student Engagement.” Innovations in Pedagogy Conference. University of West Georgia. Presented virtually. May 2020.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Innovations in Pedagogy, 2023, University of West Georgia. May 2023.

GOSS/USG Corequisite Academy 2021 Virtual Conference. Feb 2021.
 “Nice is Not Enough: Leveraging Effective Practices to Address Microaggressions in Higher Education.” UWG Center for Diversity and Inclusion. Aug 2020.
 Innovations in Pedagogy. University of West Georgia. Presented virtually. May 2020.
 “Teaching the Civil War through a New Lens”: Live Q and A with Henry Louis Gates Jr. PBS Teachers Lounge. January 3, 2020.
 Innovations in Pedagogy. University of West Georgia. May 2021.
 Innovations in Pedagogy. University of West Georgia. May 2019.
 Innovations in Pedagogy. University of West Georgia. May 2018.
 Innovations in Pedagogy. University of West Georgia. May 2017.

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, READINGS, PRESENTATIONS

“Mayhayley in Context.” Kiwanis Golden K, Newnan GA. Sept. 2023.
 “History and Impact of the Pulitzer Prize in Literature.” LitMu Club, Carrollton, GA. Oct 2022.
 “Mayhayley Lancaster, Mercurial and Mercenary.” A lecture for the Rotary Club, Newnan, GA. Jan 2, 2021 (for Kiwanis Feb 25, 2021)
 Robert Burns Lecture, University of West Georgia Lecture Hall. Public Lecture for Burns Society, January 2019
 Happy 452nd! Shakespeare Sundays. Carnegie Library. Newnan, GA, April 24, 2016.
Stone, River, Sky. Reading. Newnan, GA. April 14, 2016.
 “The Fugitive Moment.” Southern Crossroads Lecture Series. Newnan, GA. March 24, 2016.
Bright Illuminations. Reading. Newnan, GA. March 10, 2016.
 Immortal Memory Address. Annual Robert Burns Supper. Newnan, GA. January 31, 2016.
 Public Creative Writing Workshops. Carnegie Library. September, October, November 2016.
 Alabama Contemporary Arts Center. Mobile AL. ArtWalk Poetry reading. July 10, 2015.
 Georgia Poets for Poetry Month. McRitchie Hollis Museum. Newnan GA. April 24, 2015
 East Bay Meeting House. Charleston SC. Featured Poet. January 26, 2015.
 Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference. “What Really Happened,” a workshop examining backstories of poems by Claudia Emerson, R.T. Smith, and Suzanne Cleary. September 2014.
 AJC Decatur Book Festival. Featured Local Poet. August 2014.
 Georgia Poetry Society. “Battle Lines, The Poetry of War.” Workshop Co-leader with C. Scott Wilkerson. April 26, 2014
 Georgia Poetry Society. “Ten Rounds No Holds Barred Poetry: Four Poets, Ten Subjects.” Columbus Public Library. April 24, 2014
 Newnan High School Literacy Night. Featured Local Writer. April 10, 2014
 Newnan Historical Society. “New Poems from the City of Homes.” Historic Newnan Depot. April 3, 2014
 AJC Decatur Book Festival. Featured Local Poet. August 2013.
 Converse College Graduate Seminar Craft Lecture. “Finding Medusa, an exploration of ancient and contemporary literature and media to uncover the original myth and ongoing revisions to the Medusa figure.” Spring 2012.
 Auburn Writers Conference. Featured Poet and Workshop Leader. “The Persona Poem,” contemporary examples and guided writing exercises. Fall 2011.

“Versed in Poetry.” Organized and curated a series of readings and lectures featuring US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey and Georgia and Alabama poets at The Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Newnan, Georgia. Each reading included a poetry workshop with students of the Coweta County School System. Spring 2011.

“Adventures in Art.” Poetry Workshop Leader at The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. A week-long field excursion for all 4th and 5th grade students in Auburn Alabama. Explored persona poems from Lewis Carroll’s “Jabberwocky” to James Hall’s “Maybe Dats Your Pwoblem Too.” Led writing exercises and performances among the students. Spring 2011.

University of South Alabama. Featured Poet and Workshop Leader with Creative Writing Students. Fall 2011.

Alabama Book Festival. Featured Poet and Reader. April 16, 2011.

Middle Georgia Technical College Poetry Celebration. Spring 2011.

Pensters Writers’ Group. Featured Lecturer and Poet, 2012. “Who is *T*? The Contemporary Persona Poem.” Fall 2011.

Georgia Poetry Society. Featured Poet at the Columbus River Center. Spring 2012.

Little Professor Bookstore. Birmingham, Alabama. March 2013.

The Gnus Room. Auburn, Alabama.

Release Event for *Sweet Aegis*. Fall 2013.

Release Event for *Chinaberries and Crows*. Fall 2012.

Release Event for *Cameo*. Spring 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Anthologies, Chapbooks

Ice on a Hot Stove: Poems from Converse. Clemson University Press. Anthology. Fall 2021.

Vinegar and Char: Poems from the Southern Foodways Alliance. Sandra Beasley, Ed. UGA press. 2018

Stone, River, Sky, An Anthology of Georgia Poems. Associate Editor. Negative Capability Press. Mobile, AL. (2015).

Thirty-three, An Anthology. Negative Capability Press. Mobile, AL. (2014).

Sweet Aegis, Medusa Poems, a book of poems. Negative Capability Press. Auburn, AL. (2013).

Cameo. New Plains Press. Auburn, AL. (2011).

Table Five, a collaborative prose poem novella with C. S. Wilkerson, John Summerfield, Sue Brannan Walker. Dead Academic Press/Halawaukee School for Exegetical Arts. Auburn, AL. (2012).

Chinaberries and Crows, an anthology of poems. Solomon and George Publishers. Auburn, AL. (2012).

Gnu Writers Chapbook. Presented by The Gnu’s Room, Auburn, Alabama (March 2012).

Poems in Periodicals

“Taking the Back Roads to the Orthodontist” and “Buchanan Street.” Southern Humanities Review. Auburn University, Auburn, AL. October 2015.

“Apples and Edam.” *Thirty-Three, An Anniversary Anthology*. Ed. Sue Walker et al. Mobile: Negative Capability Press, 2014. 22. Print.

"A Poem in Flight." *North American Review: Online Invitational Blog*, July 7, 2014. Web.

"Turdus Migratorius." *The Bitter Southerner*, Poetry Vol 1 (2014): n. pag. Web.

- "My Mother Tells Me About Granny Alice." *Eyedrum Periodically* Issue 3 (2014): n. pag. Web.
- "Ode to the Avocado." *Alba* Issue 26. Jan 2014: n.pag. Web.
- "Ode to the Avocado" and "Apples and Edam." *Graze*. Chicago: Graze Magazine, 2014. 52, 64. Print. (with consent from Alba). Print.
- "Mis En Place." *Gravy, The Quarterly Journal of the Southern Foodways Alliance* Issue # 50. Oxford: University of Mississippi, 2014. 29. Print.
- "Diorama." *Cumberland River Review*. 3.1. Trevecca Nazarene University, 2014. Web.
- "My Son Dancing." *Cumberland River Review*. 2.4. Trevecca Nazarene University, 2014. Web.
- "Buckeye," "The Humans." *Shenandoah*. 62. 2. Washington and Lee University 2013. Web.
- "The Phorcydes Recall Their Father," "The Graeae Deny Nothing," and "Io to Isis, the Moratorium." *Southern Humanities Review*. Vol. 46-4. (2012): 363-366. Print.
- "I Flew." *North American Review* (Summer 2011): 20. University of Northern Iowa. Print.
- "The Whole Vault of Heaven," "Dionysus on the Death of Ariadne," "Medusa Reads Hesiod's Theogony at the Bullsboro Golden Corral." *Fickle Muses*, May 6, 2013. Web.
- "Ash Wednesday." *Literary Mama* (September 2012). Web.
- "How to Raise a Girl Poet." *Birmingham Arts Journal* (Volume 7, Number 1): 46. Print.
- "If You Forget Me." *Southern Women's Review* (Volume 2, Issue 2): 82. Print.
- "You Asked What the Birds Mean." *Southern Women's Review* (Volume 1, Issue 1): 84. Print.
- "My First Husband." *Breadcrumbs Scabs* (September, 2010): 31. Print/Web.
- "I Wandered Like I Wandered Lonely," "Coney Island, New York" (as "It Was the Baby"). *Driftwood Review* (Issue 6, 2010). Web.
- "Niobe, Medusa, and Cassiopeia Meet Weekly," "Zeus in the Rose Garden," "Andromeda and the Wedding," "Hermes Psychopompous," and "Medusa's Dilemma." *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*. April 2012. Web.
- "Yellow Jackets." *Glass*. Vol 3.1. June 2010. Web.
- "Medusa Writes Her Epitaph," and "Perseus Regales the Throng with a Blustery Tale." *The Ides of March Poetry Journal*. July 2012. Web.
- "Medusa Argues Her Virtues" and "The Medusa Effect." *Melusine* (2011). Web.
- "Robin Lake" (as "The Fish"). *Sense Magazine* 2011: p 52. Print
- "Mirror," "On the Passing of Gourmet" (as "Bitter Sonnet") and "On Spilling the Salt." *Shotglass Journal*. Issue 2. Web.
- "As Wishes are to Fulfillment, A Series on the Caves." *Southern Humanities Review*. 1990. Print.
- "Webster." *Caesura*. Auburn University. 1989. Print

Critical Reviews

- Medusa in the Mirror of Time* by David Leeming. *Southern Humanities Review*. Auburn University, 2014. 118-125. Print.
- Scything Grace*, Sean Thomas Doherty. *Works in Progress*, Leslie Pietryck. Dec 2013. Web.
- The Gold Thread* by Sarah Kennedy. *Southern Humanities Review*. Fall, 2013. Print.
- To Climb a Tree*, Carey Link, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. Web.
- Possible Crocodiles*, Barry Marks, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. Web.
- To Stitch a Summer Sky*, Sue Scalf, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. Web.

How God Ends Us, Delana Dameron, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. Web.
Equivocal Blessings by Mary Carol Moran, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. Web.

Feature Articles

"Meeting Newnan's Mental Health Needs." (With Hannah Trosper). Jan 2023. Print and Online.
 "Bringing the Zoo to You." Newnan, Coweta Magazine. August 2022. Print and Online.
 "A Tornado Story: One family's saga in the hours, days, weeks and months after Newnan's EF-4" Newnan Coweta Magazine. March 2022. Print and Online.
 "Mental Health." *Thrive Magazine*, Spring 2020. Print and Online.
 "The Leading Ladies of the Chamber." Thrive Magazine, Winter 2019. Print and Online.
 "A Tale of Two Cities." *Thrive Magazine*, Summer 2019. Print and Online.
 "The State of Real Estate in Newnan/Coweta" *Thrive Magazine*, Spring 2019. Print and Online.
 "Love for the Linc." *Thrive Magazine*, Spring 2019. Print and Online.
 "Good Credit and a Name." *Newnan/Coweta Magazine*. Nov/Dec 2014. 30-34. Print.
 "Mayhayley, the Mercurial." *Newnan/Coweta Magazine*. Sept/Oct 2014. 50-62. Print.
 "A Poem in Flight: Memory and Truth." *North American Review Blog*. Online
 "She'll Make You Lunch; What Mama's Kitchen Is and Isn't." *Gravy; The Quarterly Journal of the Southern Foodways Alliance*. Oxford: Univ of Mississippi, 2014. 20-22. Print.
 "A Ghost in the Machine." *Newnan/Coweta Magazine*. July/Aug 2014. 32-37. Print.
 "The Age of Consignment." *Newnan/Coweta Magazine*. 36-43. Mar/Apr 2014. Print.
 "Growing Gillyweed." *Newnan/Coweta Magazine*. 28-35. Jan/Feb 2014.

CRITICAL RECEPTION AND OTHER COVERAGE OF MY WORK

"Portrait of an Artist." *Newnan Coweta Magazine*. March 2023.
Sweet Aegis, Medusa Poems review Kathleen Nalley. *Southern Humanities Review*. Oct 25, 2015.
As Dickson states in the fifth of her "Fragmented Quatrains," "The most powerful force in the world is inconvenience." Indeed, inconvenience fosters acceptance of status quo, of believing in whatever truths are force-fed. Often, it's easier to believe in things as they are without questioning matters that may prove messy and difficult at best. ~Southern Humanities Review
 Poem of the Week, *Shenandoah*. Washington and Lee University.
"The Humans" demonstrates an apt social critique while remaining humorous and light-hearted. Dickson does not venture into the depressing, acidic feeling of Lost Generation Era style social critiques, although it drives at a similar core message. The poem aims to highlight humankind's tendency towards frivolity, soulless gossip and distraction, without establishing an aura of hate or condescension that this message often accompanies. ~Shenandoah Blog
 NegativeCapabilityPress.Org. "Allen Berry Reviews *Sweet Aegis*." August 06, 2014. Web.
Sweet Aegis is a powerful work, casting a modern light on a classic myth. Heroic tale becomes modern allegory as the famous and infamous walk through the contemporary south. Once you have read Sweet Aegis, you will never look at Medusa and her contemporaries the same again. ~ Negative Capability Online
Newnan Times Herald, "Dickson, Wilkerson Read Work for Historical Society." May 4, 2014. Print/Web.
Newnan Times Herald, "Readers Challenged to Revisit Medusa." Sunday, July 28, 2013. Print/Web.
Mobile Press Register. *Cameo: Poet traces Civil War legacy in small, sharp images.* Sunday, October 02, 2011. Print/Web.
Alabama Writers's Forum First Draft. *Cameo*, reviewed by P.T. Paul. 2011. Web.
Our Lady of the Spiral Notebook. *Cameo: Art, History, War, Beauty* by Kory Wells. Web.

Alabama Writers's Forum First Draft. Table Five, reviewed by Aaron Sanderson, 2011. Web.
Tuscaloosa News. Chinaberries and Crows, Collection is Worthwhile, Don Noble. 2013. Print.

ART EXHIBITS

September 2023 McRitchie Hollis Museum. Featured Artist. Portraits.
 March 2023 David Boyd Gallery. Solo Exhibit, Featured artist. Large-scale abstraction.
 October 2022 Serenbe Showhouse. Four paintings featured.

EARLY ART CAREER UNDER THE NAME MELISSA RICHARD

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Special Projects

October 2003 Biggin Gallery, Auburn University, Auburn AL
 September 2002 Robert Steele Gallery, NYC
 April 2001 Robert Steel Gallery, NYC
 August 2000 Catherine Moore Fine Art, NYC. (Covered in the *New Yorker* and *New York Magazine*)
 April 1999 Catherine Moore Fine Art, NYC
 February 1998 The Painting Center. NYC
 November 1997 Swainsboro Center for the Arts, Swainsboro GA
 October 1997 Manget Brannon Center for the Arts, Newnan, GA
 September 1997 Behind the Glass Gallery, Auburn, AL
 April 1997 Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center, NYC
 July 1996 The Work Space Gallery, NYC
 April 1996 Bennington College, Vermont
 March 1996 La Mama La Galleria, NYC
 Nov 1992 Telfair Peet Gallery, Auburn University

AWARDS AND HONORS

Excellence in Teaching Award, General Education Department, University of West Georgia. 2023.
 Mentored Students won 6 Awards at At The Core Conference, 2023. UWG.
 Nominated for Best of the Net, *Cumberland River Review*, 2014
 Nominated for Pushcart Award, *Shenandoah* and *Cumberland River Review*, 2014.
 Nominated for Pushcart Award, New Plains Press, 2011.
 Nominated for Pushcart Award, Dead Academics Press, 2012.
 Auburn Arts Association Fellowship, 1990.
 The Academy of American Student Poets' Prize, Auburn University, 1989.
 American Poetry Association National Poetry Contest, 1989.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Newspapers in Education Coordinator and Editor of "The Cub Reporter," *Opelika-Auburn News*, 2008-2011.

Led poetry workshops with students in Lee County, Alabama introducing teenagers to contemporary poetry and encouraging them to practice writing on their own. Published selected submissions from workshop students in “The Cub Reporter.”

Editor of *Arts Alive* for the Opelika-Auburn News, a tab special promoting local writers, artists, and musicians. Executive Assistant to the president and Vice President of Nonesuch Records, a Warner Music record label located in Rockefeller Plaza in NYC. 1997-2001. Founded in 1964, Nonesuch represents some of the most innovative and influential artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. I was responsible for daily communication with artists, executives, and media. I began the process of cataloging the company’s output since its inception in 1964 for the creation of a website. <https://www.nonesuch.com/about>

SERVICE

Judge for GISA Region 5AA Literary competition, 2023

Judge for Columbus State University Annual Poetry Contest, 2017-2021

Judge for the Newnan/Coweta Poetry Slam hosted by Carnegie Library, 2014 and 2015

Featured Poet for Literacy Night at Newnan High School, 2014

Editorial Board, Solomon and George Publishers, a 501(c)(3) non-profit independent press fostering the visual, performing, literary, and musical arts. 2011-2013. <http://www.solomonandgeorge.org/>

Poetry Out Loud Judge, 7th Annual Alabama State Finals, 2012.

Editorial and Design Consultant, New Plains Press. Provided cover design for poetry collections: *Gravity* by Crystal Woods Jenkins, *Appetite* by Johnny Summerfield, *Heaven was the Moon* by Kory Wells, *Threading Stone* and *Ars Minotaurica* by Scott Wilkerson.

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