

**JEN HIRT**  
jlh73@psu.edu

**August 2017 Curriculum Vitae**

## EDUCATION

### **M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of Idaho, 2004**

- Nonfiction Thesis: *Under Glass*
- Thesis Adviser: Mary Clearman Blew

### **M.A. in English, Iowa State University, 2000**

- Concentration in creative writing
- Thesis Adviser: Steve Pett

### **B.A. in English, Hiram College, 1997**

- Concentration in creative writing
- Advisers: Hale Chatfield and Joyce Dyer

## EXPERIENCE AT PENN STATE HARRISBURG

### **Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Composition Program Coordinator, English Major**

Penn State Harrisburg

August 2007 (as instructor) and 2012 to present (as a tenure-track assistant professor)

#### **Courses**

- English 15: Rhetoric and Composition
- English 15s: Rhetoric and Composition with First Year Seminar
- English 30: Honors Rhetoric and Composition
- English 50: Introduction to Creative Writing
- English 50h: Honors Introduction to Creative Writing
- English 202a: Writing in the Social Sciences
- English 209: Journal and Magazine Practicum
- English 211: Introduction to Writing Studies
- English 213: Introduction to Poetry Writing
- English 214: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing
- English 215: Introduction to Article Writing
- English 262: Reading Fiction
- English 265: Reading Nonfiction
- English 415: Advanced Nonfiction Writing
- English 421: Advanced Expository Writing
- English 424: Creative Writing and the Natural World
- English 493: American Nonfiction Literature
- Communications 525: Advanced Writers Seminar
- Honors 301: The Role of Knowledge in Society

#### **Advising Duties**

- Faculty adviser to the literary magazine, Fall 2009-present
- Undergraduate adviser for English majors, Fall 2012-present
- Undergraduate adviser for Sec. Ed. majors, English emphasis, Fall 2012—present

- Graduate adviser, M.A. in Humanities candidates, Fall 2012-present
- First reader for M.A. thesis projects, Spring 2014-Spring 2015
- Second reader for M.A. thesis projects, Spring 2013-Spring 2015
- First reader for honors thesis projects, Spring and Fall 2012
- Second reader for honors thesis projects, Spring 2011

## **Committees**

### **Honors Advisory Council, 2016-present**

#### **Capital College Faculty Senate**

- Humanities Senator, 2014-2017
- Senate Secretary, 2016-2017
- Advising Award Committee, 2017
- Inventory of Practices Ad-Hoc Committee, 2016
- Liaison, Academic Affairs Committee, 2015-2017
- Liaison, Enrollment Committee, 2014-2015
- Member, Academic Affairs Committee, 2013-2015

#### **School of Humanities**

- Visiting Writers Series Committee, 2014-present
- Search Committees, 2012-2016
- Humanities Curriculum Committee, 2012-2013
- Humanities Awards Committee, 2012-2013
- Epic Ideas Festival Planning Committee, 2011-2012
- Humanities Strategic Planning Committee, 2010
- Humanities Retention Committee, 2007-2013

## **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Mentor, Associated Writing Programs**

August 2014-December 2014

- Chosen as one of ten creative writing mentors, via a nationwide search
- Inaugural year of this program
- Volunteered my time and knowledge to mentor the writer Allison Coffelt
- Coffelt's memoir was accepted for publication in March 2017

### **Education Testing Services Evaluator for Advanced Placement English Lang. Exam**

Louisville, Kentucky

June 2012

- Scored high school essays during the 2012 session
- Invited back for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 scorings

### **Adjunct Instructor**

Harrisburg Area Community College

August 2006 to August 2007

- English 101
- English 102

**Instructor and Tutor**

Eastern Idaho Technical College  
August 2005 to February 2006

- Workplace Essentials instructor
- Writing Center tutor

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Idaho  
August 2001 to May 2004

- English 101
- English 102
- English 293: Creative Nonfiction

Award: Three-year recipient of the  
Grace Nixon Scholarship  
(for writers intending to pursue teaching)

**Reading Comprehension Teacher**

American Reading Academy in Des Moines, Iowa  
April 2000 to April 2001

- Private tutoring in reading comprehension

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Iowa State University Department of English  
August 1998 to May 2000

- English 104
- English 105

**PUBLICATIONS and CREATIVE WORK**

**Memoir**

*Under Glass: The Girl with a Thousand Christmas Trees.* Akron, OH: Ringtaw Books/University of Akron Press, 2010.

**As Book Editor or Co-Editor**

*Kept Secret: The Half-Truth in Nonfiction.* Tina Mitchell, co-editor. East Lansing, Michigan State University Press, Summer 2017.

*Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with the Writers.* Erin Murphy, co-editor. Albany, State University of New York Press, Excelsior Editions, Spring 2016

*Mediums.* (Opposing Viewpoints Series.) Detroit, Greenhaven Press, 2006.

**Collaborative Articles about Editing**

“Writers Shaping the Literary Creative Nonfiction Landscape.” Marcia Aldrich, David Lazar, and B.J. Hollars, co-authors. *Essay Daily*. December 4, 2016. Web.

“Writing the Other Half: A Conversation About Creating Nonfiction.” Erin Murphy, co-author. *Essay Daily*. May 5, 2016. Web.

### **Book Review**

“On *Animals Strike Curious Poses* by Elena Passarello.” *The Kenyon Review*. June 2017. Web.

### **Creative Nonfiction**

“I am the Witness.” *Terrain*. Web. August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

“Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish and Interview with Jen Hirt.” *Kept Secret: The Half Truth in Nonfiction*. East Lansing, Michigan State University Press, Spring 2017: 29-38.

“On the Last Kimball Caravan in Harrisburg, PA.” Web. *Slag Glass City: Disturbed City*. November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

“Pit Bull Economics.” *Ocean State Review*. Print. Fall 2016: 82-91.

“Collide with Me.” *Blood Orange Review*. Web. Spring 2016.

“White God and the Shelter Dogs.” *The Weeklings*. Web. February 18, 2016.

“Swingline Nine.” *From Curlers to Chainsaws: Women and Their Machines*. East Lansing, Michigan State University Press, Spring 2016: 260-271.

“Students of the Route and Interview with Jen Hirt.” *Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with the Writers*. Albany, State University of New York Press, Spring 2016: 175-180.

“Follow Me.” *Flashglass/Glassworks Magazine*. Web. September 1, 2015.

“Whisper Satyr.” *Hobart*. Web. February 4, 2015.

“Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish.” *Ninth Letter*. Spring/Summer 2014: 7-13.

“Students of the Route.” *Terrain*. Web. October 2013.

“Hour Thirteen.” *The Colorado Review*. Vol. 40, no. 3, Fall/Winter 2013: 65-77.

“The Understory of the One-Eyed Deer.” *Confrontation*. No. 113, Spring 2013: 201-213.

“Monster Magnificent.” *TriQuarterly*. Web. Winter 2013.

“Glow in the Dark.” *Redivider*. Vol. 10, no. 1, Winter 2013: 35-43.

“String Theories.” *The Sonora Review*. No. 62, Fall 2012: 7-14.

“Lores of Last Unicorns.” *The Pushcart Prize XXXV*. Bill Henderson, ed. New York, Pushcart Press, 2011: 109-122.

“Lores of Last Unicorns.” *The Gettysburg Review*. Vol. 22, no. 4, Winter 2009: 615-626.

“Ricin Communis.” *The King’s English*. Web. Spring 2009.

“Arrived to Find.” *Natural Bridge*. Vol. 20, Spring 2009: 71-85.

“Laying Dynamite with the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire.” *Redivider*. Vol. 6, no. 2, Spring 2009: 94-101.

“Idaho Fell.” *Sunday Salon*. Web. Summer 2008.

“Herculean in Nantucket White.” *Rougarou*. Web. Spring 2008.

“Stronghold.” *Flyway*. Vol. 9.3/10.1, Spring/Fall 2005: 61-71.

“The Grotto of Redemption.” *The Briar Cliff Review*. Vol. 17, Spring 2005: 68-73.

“Cut.” *Flyway*. Vol. 8.3, Spring 2004. 43-54.

“Best Offer.” *Touchstone*. Spring 2003: 82-94.

“Under Glass.” *The Ohioana Quarterly*. Vol. XLVI, Issue #4. Winter 2003. 489-498. (reprinted )

“Controlling the Light.” *The Briar Cliff Review*. Vol. 14, Spring 2002: 41-44.

“Under Glass.” *The Heartlands Today: A Life’s Work*. Vol. 12: 58-67.

### **Literature Articles and Introductions to Anthologies**

“Introduction.” *Kept Secret: The Half-Truth in Nonfiction*. Co-written with Tina Mitchell. Jen Hirt and

- Tina Mitchell, eds. East Lansing, Michigan State University Press: 2017: xi-xvii.
- “Introduction, Part II.” *Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with the Writers*. Co-written with Erin Murphy. Jen Hirt and Erin Murphy, eds. Albany, State University of New York Press, Spring 2016: xi-xii.
- “Eula Biss.” *American Writers XXVI*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2015: 45-60.
- “Michelle Cliff.” *American Writers XXII*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2012: 33-45.
- “Illness as Metaphor.” *Masterplots: Fourth Edition*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2011: 2812-2814.
- “Pilgrim at Tinker Creek.” *Masterplots: Fourth Edition*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2011: 4469-4471.
- “Virgin Time” *Masterplots II: Christian Literature*. Salem, CA: Salem Press: 2007: 1883-1886.
- “Charles Baxter.” *American Writers XVII*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Gale Publishing: 2007: 13-24.
- “Scott Russell Sanders.” *American Writers XVI*. Jay Parini, ed. NY, Gale Pub: 2006: 183-200.
- “Hamlin Garland.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Oxford UP, 2003: 95-97. \*\*Revising this in 2017 for the new online edition.
- “Ring Lardner.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. Jay Parini, ed. New York, Oxford UP, 2003: 402-404. \*\*Revising this in 2017 for the new online edition.

### Poetry

- “Three Bricks Thick.” *Pinyon*. Commemorative Issue (Spring 2016) 37.
- “Have Two.” *Salamander*. 42 (Spring 2016). 160-161.
- “Elegy After the Jeweler’s.” *Pilgrimage*. 39.3 (Fear Issue, Spring 2016) 16-17.
- “Carry On.” *Natural Bridge*. 33 (Spring 2015) 109.
- “If You Don’t Stop Right Now.” *Natural Bridge*. 33 (Spring 2015) 108.
- “Aster Yellows.” *Quiddity*. 7.1 (2014) 84.
- “Why Not Malachite for Resurrection.” *Blackbird*. Web. Spring 2014 issue.
- “Too Many Questions About Strawberries.” *The Baltimore Review*. Web. Winter 2013 issue.
- “Tough Stain.” *The Rubbertop Review*. Vol. 4, 2012: 23.
- “Out West.” *Conduit*. No. 19. Spring 2008: on the “tragedy” page.
- “My Family Owns Greenhouses in Ohio.” *Pinyon*. Issue 14. Spring 2005: 34-35.
- “Girlfriend.” *Hiram Poetry Review*. Issue 65, Spring 2004: 37.
- “The Last Path to Me.” *Tributaries*. Issue 4, Fall 2001: 42-43.
- “He Was.” *Main Street Rag*. 4.3 (1999): 63.

### Fiction

- “Defendalyze.” *580 Split*. Issue 4, Spring 2002: 24-30.
- “Ruth Has Her Reasons.” *The Gihon River Review*. Vol. 1, Spring 2002: 36-46.
- “Alger Walks the Lion.” *Inkwell Magazine*. Issue 12, Spring 2001: 10-13.

### Video Essay Collaboration

- “Hollow Snake.” Video. With Stephen Ausherman, Hideki Kanno, Todd Smith, Patrick Dougherty. Fall 2012. <http://vimeo.com/54067793>

### Manuscripts Submitted or In-Progress

*Too Many Questions About Strawberries*

- Poetry chapbook
- One of 30 semi-finalists (out of 400 proposals) at Publishing Genius Press. Decision forthcoming in late 2017 or early 2018.

*Collide With Me and Other Wishes*

- Creative nonfiction essays
- Finalist for the 2015 Zone 3 Press Prize
- Manuscript is submitted for representation/publication

*Slip Lead: Walking the Shelter Dogs*

- A personal narrative project about the shelter dogs in Harrisburg, PA. These are true stories about my volunteer position as a dog walker and a writer of the Petfinder profiles. Three of the essays have been published so far.

**AWARDS & GRANTS & RESIDENCIES**

2017, Foreword Reviews INDIE award of “Gold,” anthology category  
 2017, Accepted, Mayapple Press Writing Residency at Byrdcliffe, New York  
 2017, Pushcart nomination for “Pit Bull Economics”  
 2016, Pushcart nomination for “If You Don’t Stop Right Now”  
 2015, Pushcart nomination for “Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish”  
 2015, Finalist, Zone 3 Press book prize  
 2015, notable essay mention for “Not Less Than...” in *Best American Essays 2015*  
 2014, notable essay mention for “Hour Thirteen” in *Best American Essays 2014*  
 2014, Finalist, Baltic Writing Residency in Scotland  
 2013, Finalist for the Terrain nonfiction prize  
 2012, Gabehart Prize for Nonfiction from the Kentucky Women Writers Conference  
 2012, grant for teaching creative writing from PSU’s Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence  
 2011, \$1000 Drake University Emerging Writer Award for *Under Glass*  
 2010, Pushcart Prize for the essay “Lores of Last Unicorns”  
 2010, notable essay mention for “Arrived to Find” in *Best American Essays 2010*  
 2009, \$5000 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Creative Nonfiction Fellowship Award  
 2004, Bernheim Arboretum Writer-in-Residence and \$1000 stipend  
 2003, \$1000 Ohioana Library Grant  
 2002, Honorable Mention in the Lorian Hemingway Fiction Contest  
 2002, Honorable Mention in the New Letters Nonfiction Awards  
 2001, Finalist, Inkwell Short Story Contest  
 2000, Finalist, New Letters Nonfiction Awards

**OTHER WRITING AND EDITING EXPERIENCE**

**Peer-Reviewer**

*Journal of Creative Writing Studies*

January 2016 – present

- Evaluate submissions for the journal
- Genres include creative nonfiction, fiction, theory, and pedagogy

**Judge**

- 2017: Nichols and Lehman Nonfiction Contests at Penn State
- 2016: Hiram College Emerging Writers Nonfiction Contest
- 2016: Sigma Tau Delta (English Honors Society) conference paper evaluator
- 2015: South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Writing Awards, Fiction Judge
- 2014: Pennsylvania Scholastic Press Association conference contests

- 2013: Hiram College Creative Nonfiction Contest
- 2013: Penn State University's Toby Thompson Award in Creative Nonfiction
- 2013: South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Writing Awards Poetry Judge
- 2011: *Periphery Journal* prose contest at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

### **Writer-in-Residence**

*Bernheim Arboretum*

September and October 2004

- Submitted nonfiction essays and project proposal to win residency
- Offered classes in nature writing
- Gave a presentation about the history of greenhouses

### **Freelance Writing**

*Various projects edited by Jay Parini*

Summers of 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2014, and spring 2017

- Revisions of articles written in 2002/2004 for new online edition of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*, accepted June 2017, forthcoming in 2017
- *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* (two 3,000 word biographies)
- *American Writers XVI* (10,000 word biography on Scott Russell Sanders)
- *American Writers XVII* (10,000 word biography on Charles Baxter)
- *American Writers XXII* (10,000 word biography on Michelle Cliff)
- *American Writers XXVI* (10,000 word biography on Eula Biss)

*Masterplots (Salem Press)*

September 2006 and summer 2009

- *Masterplots II: Christian Literature* (article about Patricia Hampl's *Virgin Time*)
- *Masterplots Fourth Edition* (articles about Susan Sontag's *Illness as Metaphor* and Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Reading of "Swingline Nine"

PSH Research Presentation

Penn State Harrisburg

January 31, 2017

Reading of "Swingline Nine"

Hiram College Writers Series

Hiram, Ohio

September 26, 2016

Reading of "Too Many Questions About Strawberries"

Citylit Festival

Baltimore, Maryland

April 16, 2016

Session Chair: Gimme Shelter: Creative Writing about Rescued Animals  
*Northeast Modern Language Association Conference*  
Hartford, Connecticut  
March 17, 2016

Session Chair: Literary Magazines at the PSU Campuses  
*Penn State English Conference*  
October 8, 2015

Workshop Presentation of "Pit Bull Economics"  
*Disquiet International Literary Program*  
Lisbon, Portugal  
July 6, 2015

Reading of "Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish"  
*Shippensburg University*  
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania  
October 23, 2014

Reading of "Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish"  
*Muskingum University*  
New Concord, Ohio  
October 16, 2014

Reading of "Not Less Than 1,000 Bottles for Horseradish"  
*Western Reserve Book Festival*  
Hiram, Ohio  
June 21, 2014

Session Chair: The Literature of Resistance  
*Northeast Modern Language Association Conference*  
April 6, 2014

Panel Participant: Mystery in the Creative Writing Process  
*Northeast Modern Language Association Conference*  
April 6, 2014

Panel Participant: The Unconditional in American Literature  
*College English Association Conference*  
March 28, 2014

Panel Participant: Balancing Creative Priorities and Teaching  
*Eastern Association of Pennsylvania State Universities*  
October 16, 2013

Panel Participant: Creative Writing Pedagogy  
*Penn State English Conference*  
October 2013



Faculty Research Presentation  
*Penn State Harrisburg*  
September 2013

Panel Participant: Running Literary Magazines as Clubs on Campus  
*Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors*  
Cabrini College  
November 2012

Panel Participant: Trends in Award-Winning Nonfiction  
*Penn State English Conference*  
October 2012

Featured Speaker: Reading of "Glow in the Dark"  
*Kentucky Women Writers Conference*  
Lexington, Kentucky  
September 2012

Book Signing/Meet the Author  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harrisburg Book Festival  
Harrisburg, PA  
November 2011

Reading from *Under Glass*  
Almost-Uptown Poetry Cartel  
Harrisburg, PA  
November 2011

Visiting Author (via Skype)  
Professor Nate Lowe's class  
Lakeland College in Wisconsin  
October 2011

Reading from *Under Glass*  
Penn State English Conference  
State College, PA  
September 2011

Reading from *Under Glass*  
Drake University  
Des Moines, Iowa  
April 2011

Panel: Women in Higher Education  
*AAUW/Midtown Scholar Bookstore*  
Harrisburg, PA  
March 2011

Reading from *Under Glass*  
Wildwood Writer's Conference  
Harrisburg Area Community College  
March 2011

Author Discussion of *Under Glass*  
Penn State University Commission for Women Book Club  
October 2010

Reading from *Under Glass*  
University of Idaho  
September 2010

Meet the Author; Discussion of *Under Glass*  
Highland Library  
Medina, Ohio  
July 2010

Book Signing/Memoir Discussion  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harrisburg Book Festival  
Harrisburg, PA  
June 2010

Reading from *Under Glass*  
Ohioana Book Festival  
Columbus, OH  
May 2010