

Jennifer Merrifield

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EDUCATION

- 2007 **MFA, Creative Writing (Poetry), Virginia Commonwealth University**
Thesis: *American Proper*, Advisors: David Wojahn and Clint McCown
- 2003 **BA, Sociology and English, West Virginia University**
- 1997 **Harvard University Secondary School Program**

TEACHING INTERESTS

Creative Writing, 20th Century/Contemporary American Poetry and Poetics, The Form and Theory of Poetry, Introduction to Literature, Literary Editing and Publishing, Composition and Rhetoric

TEACHING and ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA

Instructor, Department of English, 2006-present

- ENG 111: College Composition I (one section), Fall 2006
- ENG 112: College Composition II (two sections), Summer 2007

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Honors College and Department of English, 2004-present

- ENGL 101: Writing and Rhetoric Workshop I (four sections), Fall 2005 to Spring 2007
- ENGL 291 Honors: Reading and Writing Fiction and Poetry, Fall 2006
- Teaching Assistant in ENGL 241: Shakespeare's Plays.
- Writing Center Peer Mentor, 450 hours

Writing Center Online, Virginia Commonwealth University

- Developed and piloted VCU's first Writing Center Online (WCO) with 125 undergraduate participants. Expanded to the Distance Learning Program in Spring 2006; the University College in Fall 2006.
- Trained and supervised three graduate WCO tutors.

Co-President, Graduate Writers Association, 2005-2006

- Secured an allocation increase of 847% (from \$1,140 to \$10,800) from Student Organizations funds.
- Designed and implemented the GWA's first Craft Workshop and Lecture Series. Spring 2006 writers included Michael Collier, Bob Hicok, and Tony D'Souza.
- Moveable Feast, VCU's monthly graduate reading series.

Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD

Instructor, Activities for Life / Gear Up Program, 2005-present.

- Expository writing and SAT Essay Prep workshops for high school students

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Guest Instructor, December 2003.

- Led a poetry workshop and participated in a Q&A with Gerry LaFemina's poetry students.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Council for Aid to Education (CAE), Collegiate Learning Assessment, New York, NY

Freelance Student Writing Evaluator, 2007-present.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) / College Board, Daytona Beach, FL

AP Exam Reader, English Language, 2006-present.

Private Writing Mentor, Richmond VA and Morgantown WV

Undergraduates to ABD, 2000-2001 and 2005-present.

PUBLICATIONS

Book-Length Manuscripts

American Proper (poetry). Under review for publication.

Discovering Coal City (poetry). In-progress.

What Sleeps Between (poetry/criticism). In-progress.

Honors and Awards

2007 Featured Emerging Writer, *Natural Bridge* 17.

2007 Nominee for Best New Poets 2007, Ed. Jeb Livingood, University of Virginia Press.

Winner of the 2006 Columbia Poetry Prize, judged by Karen Volkman. "Interrogatory No. 4: Pre-Fabrication." *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art* 43 (Spring, 2006): 244-45.

2006 Greg Grummer Poetry Award finalist. "American Proper" and "Oh Orgasm, Oh Operator: Hello, Hello." *Phoebe* 35:2 (Summer/Fall, 2006): forthcoming.

2006 Stephen Dunn Poetry Award finalist. "We are needles. We thread ourselves and stitch every cloth with visions." *Words & Images* (Spring 2006): 16.

2006 *Seattle Review* Carolyn Kizer Prize in Poetry finalist.

AWP/Intro Awards nominee, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2006.

Reviews of My Work

Scott, Jim. "Fourteen Hills." NewPages.com: Literary Magazine Reviews (October 2006): <http://newpages.com/magazinestand/litmags/2006_10/octlitmagreviews.htm>.

Journals

"Dessert." *Minima* 1.1 (2007): forthcoming <<http://magazineminima.com>>.

"The Art of Hesitant Door Opening." *Diner* 7 (2007): forthcoming.

"Machinations the Sternum Prevents." *Burnside Review* 3.2 (2007): forthcoming.

"Elegy with Starters Pistol." *LIT* 13 (2007): forthcoming.

"Cold Harbor," "Dear Slipknot—," "Picnicking in Dorset Park," "Breathing Underwater," "Image in the Current." *Natural Bridge* 17 (2007): forthcoming.

"He Loves Me Not He Loves Me." *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art* 44 (Winter, 2007): 87.

"Dusk Approaching the Bridge Between," "Answering the Whistle, the Glare," "Postscript." *42Opus* 7.1 (2007): March 2007 <<http://42opus.com/authors/jennifermerrifield>>.

"[Absent as if possessed as if not quite there]." *Harpur Palate* 6.2 (Winter, 2007): 127-28.

"What Lingers." *Diner* 6 (2006): 6-7.

"Conspadamo, Artery and Eyelet." *Harpur Palate* 6.1 (Summer, 2006): 89.

"American Proper," "Oh Orgasm, Oh Operator: Hello, Hello." *Phoebe* 35:2 (Fall, 2006): 91-93.

"Interrogatory No. 4: Pre-Fabrication." *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art* 43 (Spring, 2006): 244-45.

"Incognito." *Fourteen Hills* 12.2 (Summer/Fall, 2006): 154-55.

"The End is the Beginning is No Matter." *Redactions* 6/7 (2006 Double Issue): 58.

"We are needles. We thread ourselves and stitch every cloth with visions." *Words & Images* (Spring, 2006):

16.

“Not Nervousness,” “Dictaphone at the Switchboard,” “Maps We Forget to Make,” “Monochrome as Corrective,” “Cold Water Embrace: The Dinner Party.” *Can We Have Our Ball Back?* (2006): January 2006 <<http://cwhobb.blogspot.com/>>.

“2004 Slips into the Back Pocket.” *Sycamore Review* 17.2 (Summer/Fall, 2005): 15-16.

“A Legato Passage,” “Saturday Laundry.” *Controlled Burn X* (Winter, 2004).

“After O’Keefe.” *Whitewater Review* (2003): July 2003 <<http://www.iue.edu/whitewater/index.html>>.

“Insomnia or Something Like It.” *Terminus* 2/3 (2003 Double Issue): 11.

Anthologies

“Soul Responses: Can a poet today successfully use ‘soul’ in poetry?” *Poetry Assignments: The Book*. Ed. Tom Holmes. Grand Forks: Sage Hill Press, 2007.

“American Proper.” *White Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood*. Ed. Rishma Dunlop. Toronto: Demeter Press, 2007. forthcoming.

“A Legato Passage,” “Saturday Laundry.” *Wild Sweet Notes II: More Great Poetry from West Virginia*. Ed. Ace Boggress. Huntington: Publisher’s Place, 2005. 122-23.

Reviews, Interviews, Essays

Review. “Kate Greenstreet’s *case sensitive*.” *Coldfrontmag.com* (2007): forthcoming.

Review. “Visions of the Imagined World: Chapbooks by Kate Greenstreet, G. C. Waldrep, F. Daniel Rzicznek, Idra Novey, and Benjamin S. Grossberg.” *Blackbird* 6.1 (2007): <http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v5n2/nonfiction/merrifield_j/index.htm>.

Review. “A Shot in the Canon’s Mouth: Catherine Wing’s *Enter Invisible*.” *Blackbird* 5.1 (2006): <http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v5n1/nonfiction/merrifield_j/index.htm>.

Interview. “A Conversation with Allison Joseph.” *Blackbird* 4.2 (Fall 2005): <http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v4n2/features/joseph_a_011306/index.htm>.

Review. “Spelling it Out: Van Jordan and the Poetry of MacNolia Cox Montiere.” *Review Revue* 2.1 (Spring, 2005): 16-17.

Essay. “Soul Responses: Can a poet today successfully use ‘soul’ in poetry?” *Redactions* 4/5 (2005 Double Issue): 60.

EDITORIAL and PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

Copyeditor, *Backbone Mountain Review*, Allegany Arts Council, Maryland, 2006-present.

Freelance Web Editor, B&I Investments, Richmond VA, 2006.

Editorial Assistant, *Blackbird: an online journal of literature and the arts*, 2004-2006.

Research Assistant, *Poetry 30*. Eds. Gerry LaFemina and Daniel Crocker. DuBois: MAMMOTH Books, 2005.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Service

Contest judge for submissions to the 2005/2006 National PTA Reflections Program, Grades 3-5.

First Novelist Reader, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005 to present.

Levis Prize Reader, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005 to present.

Conferences and Academic Presentations

“American Proper,” presentation and panel, Writing by Degrees: The Ninth Annual Graduate Creative Writing Conference, Binghamton, NY, October 2006.

“The Writing Center Online Pilot Program,” Emerging Technologies Day, Virginia Commonwealth University, April 2005.

Committee Membership

Technology Committee, Graduate Representative, VCU Department of English, 2004-2006.
Department Faculty Meeting Representative (elected), VCU Department of English, 2006-2007.

Professional Membership

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Poetry Society of America

REFERENCES

David Wojahn, Professor and Director of Creative Writing, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Dept. of English, PO Box 842005, Richmond, VA 23284-2005. (804) 828-4462. dcwojahn@vcu.edu

Gerry LaFemina, Director, Frostburg Center for Creative Writing, Frostburg State University.
Dept. of English, 101 Braddock Rd., Frostburg, MD 21532-1099. (301) 687-4024. glafemina@frostburg.edu

Clint McCown, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Dept. of English, PO Box 842005, Richmond VA 23284-2005. (804) 827-8315. jcmccown@vcu.edu

Dr. Patricia Perry, Former Director, Composition and Rhetoric, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Dept. of English, PO Box 842005, Richmond, VA 23284-2005. (804) 828-8581. pperry@vcu.edu