**Laura Leigh Morris**

Department of English

Furman University

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EDUCATION

PhD 2015 English with a Creative Dissertation

 Texas A&M University

MFA 2005 Creative Writing, Fiction

 West Virginia University

BA 2001 Creative Writing with a secondary major in English

 Carnegie Mellon University

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of English, Furman University, 2015-Present

 Co-director, Furman Prison Education Partnership, 2018-Present

NEA/BOP Artist-in-Residence, Bryan Federal Prison Camp, 2012-2015

Graduate Assistant Teacher, Texas A&M University, 2010-2015

Instructor, Duke University Talent Identification Program, Summer 2011

Assistant Professor of English, Francis Marion University, 2005-2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant, West Virginia University, 2002-2005

PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

*Jaws of Life: Stories*. West Virginia University Press, March 2018

**Short Fiction**

“Frackers.” *Bayou Magazine*, Issue 70, 2019

“Muddin’.” *Appalachian Heritage*, Volume 44, Issue 3, Summer 2016

“May Ours Be as Happy as Yours.” *Notre Dame Review*, Number 42, Summer/Fall 2016

“Grief.” *Stoneboat Literary Journal*, 6.2, Spring 2016

“Jaws of Life.” *The Louisville Review*, Volume 77, Spring 2015

“The Dance.” *Tulane Review*, Spring 2015

“Controlled Fall.” *Conclave: A Journal of Character*, Issue 8, Fall 2014

“The Dollar General.” *Weave Magazine*, Issue 11, Summer 2014

“A Room with a Door.” *Qwerty Magazine*, Number 31, Spring 2014

“The Tattoo.” *Tattoos*. Ed. Alice Osborn. Charlotte, NC: Mainstreet Rag Publishing Co., 2012

“Home Invasion.” *Vandal Journal*, 2011

“The Accidental Arsonist.” *Muse & Stone*, 2007

WRITING AWARDS

Finalist, 2016 Moon City Fiction Award, Moon City Press, “Jaws of Life and Other Stories”

Finalist, 2015 Moon City Fiction Award, Moon City Press, “Jaws of Life and Other Stories”

Finalist, 2014 Serena McDonald Kennedy Award, Snake Nation Press, “Jaws of Life and Other Stories”

First Place, 2013 Charles Gordone Graduate Award in Poetry, Texas A&M University, selected poems

First Place, 2011 Charles Gordone Graduate Award in Fiction, Texas A&M University, “The Dollar General”

Runner-up, 2011 Charles Gordone Graduate Award in Creative Non-fiction, Texas A&M University, “Broken”

Honorable Mention, West Virginia Writers, Inc. 2005 Annual Statewide Writing Contest, Fiction category, “The Accidental Arsonist”

Honorable Mention, West Virginia University Russ MacDonald Graduate Creative Writing Contest, Fiction, 2005, “Fathers”

Third place, West Virginia University James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest, Graduate division, 2005, “Autobiography and Fiction: Genre Boundaries as Tools for Greater Understanding”

Third place, West Virginia Writers, Inc. 2004 Annual Statewide Writing Competition, Nonfiction Category, “Broken”

Third place, West Virginia University James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest, Graduate division, 2004, “The White Trash Worlds of Dorothy Allison’s *Bastard Out* *of Carolina* and *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*”

First place, West Virginia Writers, Inc. 2003 Annual Statewide Writing Competition, Emerging Writer’s Fiction/Nonfiction Category, “The Pink House with the Purple Door”

Honorable Mention, West Virginia University Russ MacDonald Graduate Creative Writing Contest, Fiction, 2003, “The Pink House with the Purple Door”

INVITED READINGS/LECTURES

*Jaws of Life* Discussion, Rogue Readers, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Furman University, Greenville, SC, May 9, 2019

Reading, 12th Annual Clemson Literary Festival, Clemson University, April 11, 2019

Reading + Craft Class, Shorter University, Rome, GA, April 4, 2019

Reading + Craft Class, Writers Weekend, Augusta University, January 25-27, 2019

Reading, “Who’s Telling Appalachia’s Story? Appalachian Writers Discuss their Work,” *Inside Appalachia*, West Virginia Public Radio, November 9, 2018

Panelist, “What Can’t You Do with a Creative Writing Degree?” 50th Anniversary of Creative Writing, Carnegie Mellon University, October 25-27, 2018

Reading, Folklife Center, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV, October 16, 2018

Emrys Reading Room, Joe’s Place, Greenville, SC, March 27, 2018

Instructor, Black Box Writers Residency, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, March 28, 2015

Panelist, “Educational Programming Inside Prisons Roundtable, Symposium on Educational Justice and Appalachian Prisons,” West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, April 4-6, 2014

OTHER READINGS/LECTURES

Voices from the Working Class: Offsite AWP Reading, The Twig Bookstore, San Antonio, TX, March 6, 2020

Reading with Natalie Sypolt, Taylor Books, Charleston, WV, October 28, 2018

Filming with Natalie Sypolt, “Episode 14: Appalachian Writers,” City Books’ *Shelf Life*, Pittsburgh Community Television, Pittsburgh, PA, October 22, 2018

Reading with Natalie Sypolt, White Whale Bookstore, Pittsburgh, PA, October 20, 2018

Reading, Four Seasons Books, Shepherdstown, WV, October 19, 2018

Reading, Writers Can Read, Empire Books, Huntington, WV, July 16, 2018

Lecture + Reading, “Beyond Coal Mining: An Appalachian Story,” Lunch with Books, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV, July 10, 2018

Filming, “Episode 11: Laura Leigh Morris” City Books’ *Shelf Life*, Pittsburgh Community Television, Pittsburgh, PA, July 9, 2018

Reading, City Books, Pittsburgh, PA, July 7, 2018

Reading, Furman University, Greenville, SC, March 15, 2018

Book Launch, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC, March 1, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Creative Readings**

“Frackers,” “Tales from the Backwoods: Contemporary Voices from Rural, Blue-collar America,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 4-7, 2020

Chair and Panelist, “Jaws of Life,” Women Writing Appalachia: A WVU Press Panel, Appalachian Studies Association, Asheville, NC, March 14-17, 2019

“The Dollar General,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Denver, CO, November 7-11, 2018

“Active Shooter,” Popular Culture Association in the South, Nashville, TN, October 13-15, 2016

“Frackers,” Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, April 1-4, 2015

“The Tattoo,” Popular Culture Association in the South, New Orleans, LA, October 6-8, 2011

“Fathers,” Southwest Popular Culture Association, Albuquerque, NM, February 25-28, 2009

“The Properties of Holy Grace,” International Creative Writing Conference, Bangor, Wales, June 29 – July 1, 2007

“Controlled Fall,” Popular Culture Association, Boston, MA, April 4-7, 2007

“Unpainting a House,” Popular Culture Association, Atlanta, GA, April 12-15, 2006

**Scholarly Papers**

Chair and Panelist, “Easy A? Evaluation in the Creative Writing Classroom,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Portland, OR, March 27-30, 2019

Chair and Panelist, “’A Peculiar People, a Discrete Region’: Appalachian Literature Beyond External Constructs,” Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, OH, April 5-8, 2018

“Changing Ecologies: Hydraulic Fracturing in Appalachian Literature,” Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Blacksburg, VA, March 9-12, 2017

“The Prison Writing Classroom: Creating Community in Spaces of Mistrust,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Houston, TX, April 6-9, 2016

“Whose Story Is It Anyway? Teaching the Other in the College Creative Writing Classroom,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 30 – April 2, 2016

 “Pedagogy’s Next Wave: Alternatives to the Whole-Class Workshop,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 30 – April 2, 2016

“Scissorgate: Overcoming Mis/Distrust in the Prison Writing Classroom,” National Conference on Higher Education in Prison, Pittsburgh, PA, November 5-8, 2015

“Writing Back: Incarcerated Women and the Creative Writing Classroom,” Symposium on Higher Education in Prison, Education Justice Project, Urbana, IL, October 10-12, 2014

“Always and Already Disappeared: Settler Colonialism in Catharine Sedgwick’s *Hope Leslie*,” South Atlantic Modern Languages Association, Atlanta, GA, November 8-10, 2013

“Adopting the Prison Model: Publishing for the Beginning Writer,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Las Vegas, NV, March 13-16, 2013

“Moving Toward Novelistic Discourse: Robert Greene’s *Pandosto* as Forward-looking Narrative,” Glasscock Graduate Colloquium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, February 22, 2012

“Women and Prison: A Panel Discussion,” Francis Marion University, Florence, SC, March 25, 2010

“How the Land ‘Remembers’ in Jane Smiley’s *A Thousand Acres*,” Philological Association of the Carolinas, Asheville, NC, March 20-22, 2008

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Participant, Barrelhouse Writer Camp, August 3-6, 2017

Participant, Appalachian Writers’ Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, Workshop Leader: Jennifer Haigh, July 24-29, 2017

Participant, Under the Volcano Writing Pod with Magda Bogin, Summer 2012 – Fall 2013

Participant, West Virginia Writers Conference, West Virginia University, Workshop Leader: Peter Cameron, July 2004

Participant, West Virginia Writers Conference, West Virginia University, Workshop Leader: Joan Connor, July 2003

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

Furman University

 First Year Writing Seminar

 Pop Culture, Crime, & Justice

Representations of Prison in Print and Film

American Passages

Introduction to Creative Writing

 Studies in Short Fiction

 Writing Fiction

 Writing Poems

 Senior Seminar in English: Appalachian Literature

 Senior Seminar in Writing

Texas A&M University

 Composition and Rhetoric

 Writing about Literature

 Elements of Creative Writing

 Technical Writing (online)

 Young Adult Literature

Assistant Professor of English, Francis Marion University

 Composition I

 Composition II

 Writing for Disciplines

 Honors: Writing for Disciplines

 Senior Seminar on Irish Literature (Guest Lecturer)

 Writing Center Faculty Tutor

West Virginia University

 Composition and Rhetoric

 Research and Argument

 Advanced Composition

 Business and Professional Writing

 Senior Project in Creative Writing

OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bryan Federal Prison Camp

Children’s Literature

 Short Story Writing

 Writing Your First Novel

 The Personal Essay

 Young Adult Literature

 Autobiography and Memoir

 Suspense Writing

 Poetry

 Photo-journaling

Duke University Talent Identification Program

 Writers Workshop

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member of the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Association of Authors, January 2019 – Present

Academic Advisor, contracted by Layman Poupard Publishing LLC, published by Gale/Cengage

Reprinted critical essays on George Saunders’ short stories in the *Short Stories Criticism* series, forthcoming

Reprinted critical essays on George Saunders’ *Lincoln in the Bardo* for the Yearbook issue of *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Spring 2018

Manuscript reviewer for West Virginia University Press, 2018

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

President, Furman chapter of American Association of University Professors, 2020-Present

Faculty Observer, External Engagement Committee, Board of Trustees, Furman University, 2019-2020

Vice President, Furman chapter of American Association of University Professors, 2018-2020

Co-sponsor, *The Echo*, Furman University, 2015-Present

Member, Faculty Scholarship and Awards Committee, Furman University, 2016-2019

Treasurer, Furman chapter of American Association of University Professors, 2016-2018

Co-coordinator, Atravesad@ Speaker and Workshop Series, Texas A&M University, 2012-2013

Member, Brazos Valley Reads Committee, Texas A&M University, 2011-2013

Treasurer, English Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University, 2011-2012

Member, Pee Dee Fiction and Poetry Festival Committee, Francis Marion University, 2005-2010

Member, Hunter Reading Series Committee, Francis Marion University, 2005-2010

Member, Freshman Writing Advisory Committee, Francis Marion University, 2005-2010

Member, *ad hoc* Committee on Graduate Program, Francis Marion University, 2007-2008

Member, Advisory Committee, Francis Marion University, 2006-2007

English 101 Mentor, West Virginia University, 2004-2005

English 102 Peer Support Group Leader, West Virginia University, 2003-2004

Judge, Jon Scott Nelson Freshmen Creative Writing Contest, West Virginia U, 2004

Judge, Undergraduate Creative Writing Contest, Prose, Waynesburg College, 2004

GRANTS

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Fall 2019, $1659

Book Development Grant, Humanities Development Fund, Furman University, Spring 2019, $1,500

Faculty Development Committee Career Pathways Grant, Furman University, Summer 2018, $791

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Spring 2018, $1,850

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Spring 2017, $1,100

Course Development Grant, Humanities Development Fund, Furman University, Fall 2016, $6,000

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Spring 2016, $2,000

Professional Development Grant to take part in the Under the Volcano Pods, Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts, Summer 2013, $2,500

Co-recipient, Innovations for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accountability Grant for the Atravesad@ Speaker and Workshop Series, Texas A&M University, 2012-2013, $4,000

Professional Development Grant to take part in the Under the Volcano Pods, Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts, Summer 2012, $2,000