

## Laura Leigh Morris

Department of English  
Furman University  
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### *EDUCATION*

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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*

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Associate Professor of English, Furman University, 2021-Present  
    Co-director, Furman Prison Education Partnership, 2018-2023  
Assistant Professor of English, Furman University, 2015-2021  
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*

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#### **Books**

*The Stone Catchers: A Novel*. University Press of Kentucky, forthcoming in August 2024

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

#### **Short Fiction**

“Take Care of You.” *North American Review: Open Space*, forthcoming

“After the Divorce (II).” *Kestrel: A Journal of Literature and Art*, forthcoming

“Learn to Love Your New Body.” *STORY Magazine*, forthcoming

- “Monster.” *Women Speak: 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volume*, The Women of Appalachia Project, forthcoming
- “The Husband.” *Laurel Review*, Volume 56, Issue 1, 2023
- “We Don’t.” *Pithead Chapel*, Volume 12 Issue 10, October 2023. <https://pitheadchapel.com/we-dont/>
- “Sharp.” *Monkeybicycle*, September 29, 2023. <https://monkeybicycle.net/sharp/>
- “Won’t Not.” *Pacifica Literary Review*, Issue 19.3, September 2023. <http://www.pacificareview.com/2023/09/14/wont-not-by-laura-leigh-morris/>
- “Hollow.” *JMWW*, September 6, 2023. <https://jmwwblog.wordpress.com/2023/09/06/flash-fiction-hollow-by-laura-leigh-morris/>
- “After the Divorce (I).” *Change Seven*, Summer 2023. <https://changesevenmag.com/after-the-divorce-by-laura-morris/>
- “About Leander.” *Stonecoast Review*, Issue 19, Summer 2023
- “All They Take.” *Redivider*, 20.1, May 1, 2023. <https://redivider.emerson.edu/all-they-take/>
- “The Pantry Store.” *Moon City Review*, 2023
- “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***

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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***

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### **Creative**

Moderator, Southern Author Expo, Fiction Panel with Ron Rash, George Singleton, and Julia Franks, Greenville County Library System, Greenville, SC, January 20, 2024

Artist Keynote, Southern Aesthetics Workshop, American Society for Aesthetics, Furman University, Furman University, Greenville, SC, October 13-14, 2023

In Conversation with Meagan Lucas, M. Judson Booksellers, Greenville, SC, August 15, 2023

Reading, WVU Humanities Center, West Virginia University, November 7, 2022

Featured Writer, Pee Dee Fiction and Poetry Festival, Francis Marion University, November 3-4, 2022

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

Reading, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Clemson Literary Festival, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 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?" 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Creative Writing, Carnegie Mellon University, October 25-27, 2018

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

Reading, 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

### **Carceral**

"What is the Purpose of Prison?" COM 460: Communications Ethics, Furman University, February 13, 2023

Panelist, Higher Education Programs for South Carolina Prisons Symposium, Clemson Emeritus College, June 24, 2022

Moderator and Panelist, Credits and Tuition for Inside Students Panel, The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, Zoom, April 21, 2022

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***

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Lunch and Lit with Alexa Anders, Department of English, Furman University, November 17, 2023

Creative Writing Research Workshop, The Furman Humanities Center, March 4, 2021

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

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

## ***CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS***

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### **Creative Readings**

"Monster," Women Speak: The Women of Appalachia Project, Appalachian Studies Association, Cullowhee, NC, March 7-9

Chair and Panelist, Writing Appalachia in the Carolinas, Appalachian Studies Association, Cullowhee, NC, March 7-9

Chair and Panelist, Riding the Edges: Toward a More Robust Appalachian Story, Appalachian Studies Association, Morgantown, WV, March 17-20, 2022

"Frackers," Poverty Violence and Redemption, Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 23-26, 2022

"The Whiteness Problem in America's Prison System," Appalachian Studies Association, Virtual Conference, March 11-14, 2021

“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, “The Writer-Mom: How Motherhood Changes and Influences Writing Habits and Subject,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Kansas City, MO, February 7-10, 2024

Chair and Panelist, “Can’t Tell if I’m Coming or Going: Appalachian Scholars and Authors Reflect on Professional Migrations,” Appalachian Studies Association, Athens, OH, March 16-19, 2023

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***

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- 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***

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- 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  
Prison Literature  
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

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***

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Perry Correctional Institution  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Research Methods (assistant to instructor)

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***

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

Editorial Board Member, *Carolina Currents: Studies in South Carolina Culture*, 2020 – 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, 2019

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***

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

Member, Due Process Committee, 2023-Present

Member, Nominating Committee, Furman University, 2020-2022

Mentor, Community of Scholars Mentorship Program, Furman University, 2021-2022

President, Furman chapter of American Association of University Professors, 2020-2021

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

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

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***

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Humanities Center Conference and Events Grant, Furman University, Fall 2022, \$4,500

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Fall 2022, \$210

Research and Professional Growth, Furman University, Fall 2021, \$635

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