

Sean Frederick Forbes
Director, Creative Writing Program
Assistant Professor-in-Residence
University of Connecticut, Storrs

First appointed 2016

Rev. April 2022

Department of English
University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2011 University of Connecticut, English
M.A., 2005 University of Connecticut, English
B.A., 2003 The City University of New York, Queens College, English, with Departmental Honors

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2016-present, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, University of Connecticut
2012-present, Director of the Creative Writing Program, University of Connecticut
2013-2014, Associate Director for Humanities House, University of Connecticut
2011-2016, Adjunct Professor, University of Connecticut
2003-2011, Graduate Instructor, University of Connecticut

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Poetry and poetics, creative nonfiction, twentieth-century American and World literature, Afro-Caribbean literature, queer literature, African American literature, Ethnic American literature, American autobiography.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Providencia (poems). 2Leaf Press, 2013.

Collections

The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21st Century, co-edited with Cathy J. Schlund-Vials and Tara Betts. 2Leaf Press, 2017.

What Does It Mean to Be White in America? Breaking the White Code of Silence: Personal Narratives by White Americans, co-edited with Gabrielle David. 2Leaf Press, 2016.

Reviews of Published Works and Interviews

Providencia: A Book of Poems

Pennsylvania Literary Journal, vol. 7, no. 2, 2015, pp. 25-46.

Poems in Journals and Anthologies

"On Unity: A Poetic Narrative." *The Willimantic Chronicle*, January 22, 2022, p. 7.

"Memorial Site." *English Journal*, vol. 111, no. 1, Sept. 2021, p. 91.

"Kahlonian Night." *The Willimantic Chronicle*, August 7, 2021, p. 7.

"Demeter's Other Children," *The Connecticut Literary Anthology 2021*, p. 89.

"Promotional Modeling" and "Kahlonian Night." *Here: a poetry journal*, no. 4, 2021, pp. 32-34.

"Rumpelstilzchen." *The Willimantic Chronicle*, August 18-19, 2018, p. 7.

"Haiku: Winters in Southside Jamaica, Queens." *Chagrin River Review*, vol. 10, 2017, pp. 36-38.

"La Voz del Mano" and "Desire." *The Midwest Quarterly*, vol. 55, no. 4, 2014, pp. 64-65.

"Discovery" and "Survivals." *The Midwest Quarterly*, vol. 55, no. 1, 2013, pp. 38-39.

"Truce." *Crab Orchard Review*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2012, p. 98.

"Ritual." *Sargasso, A Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language, and Culture*, vol. 1, 2011, p. 221.

"Isla Providencia." *Long River Review*, vol. 12, 2009, p. 51.

"Beauty Salon." *Crab Orchard Review*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2008, p. 68.

"Gnosis." *Long River Review*, vol. 10, 2007, p. 113.

"Enchantment." *Long River Review*, vol. 8, 2005, p. 29.

"Shango and Me" and "Man's Worth." *Long River Review*, vol. 7, 2004, pp. 105-107.

Poems Reprinted in Anthologies, Online Poetry Sites or Special Series

"Demeter's Other Children." *Connecticut Literary Anthology*. January 10, 2022. Online Archive:

<https://connecticutliteraryfestival.org/2022/01/10/demeters-other-children-by-sean-frederick-forbes/>

"An Oracle Remembering Providencia's Formation." *Brain Waves Video Anthology*. December 31, 2020. Online Archive:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUljSW5qM_w&feature=youtu.be

"Ancestry." *Brain Waves Video Anthology*. December 31, 2020. Online Archive:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kZ7b-YviuE&feature=youtu.be

"Gnosis." *Brain Waves Video Anthology*. December 31, 2020. Online Archive:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=60TtMFCm9UM&feature=youtu.be

"Double Dutch Champion." Connecticut Poetry Society. Online Archive:

<http://ctpoetry.net/al-savard.html>, 2017.

"Haiku: Winters in Southside Jamaica, Queens." *The Chagrin River Review*. Fall 2012. Online Archive: <http://www.chagrinriverreview.com/seanforbes.html>

"Cashel Man." *Poem-A-Day* online Academy of American Poets feature, March 17, 2014.

Online archive: <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/cashel-man>

Creative Nonfiction

“Linguistic Heirloom.” *English Journal*, vol. 111, no. 5, 2022, pp. 35-40.

Critical Essays

“An Afro-Latino’s Poetic and Creative Hungers.” *Latinx Poetics Anthology*. Eds. Natalie Scenters-Zapico and Ruben Quesada. U of New Mexico P. (forthcoming October 2022).

Introduction. *Dolls* (poems). Author, Claire Millikin, 2Leaf Press, 2021, pp. 1-3.

Introduction. *Wounds Fragments Derelict* (poems). Author Carlos Gabriel Kelly, 2Leaf Press, 2019, pp. 1-3.

“Series Editor’s Note.” *Substance of Fire: Gender and Race in the College Classroom*. Ed. Claire Millikin. 2Leaf Press, 2018, pp. vii-xii.

“Series Editor’s Note.” *The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21st Century*. Eds. Cathy Schlund-Vials, Sean Frederick Forbes and Tara Betts. 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp. xi-xii.

Introduction. “What We Are: Three Perspectives on Being Mixed Race in America.” *The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives About Being Mixed Race in the 21st Century*. Eds. Cathy Schlund-Vials, Sean Frederick Forbes and Tara Betts. 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp. 1-17.

“Series Editor’s Note.” *Black Lives Have Always Mattered: A Collection of Essays, Poems and Personal Narratives*. Ed. Abiodun Oyewole. 2Leaf Press, 2017, pp. xii-xv.

Preface. “The Making of ‘What Does It Mean to Be White in America.’” *What Does It Mean to Be White in America? Breaking the White Code of Silence: Personal Narratives by White Americans*. Eds. Gabrielle David and Sean Frederick Forbes. 2Leaf Press, 2016, pp. xiii-xxx.

“Through Afro-Caribbean Eyes: Another Way of Interpreting the Works of Michelle Cliff.” *Mellon Minority Undergraduate Journal*, 2003, pp. 63-65.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, PRIZES, AND AWARDS

Faculty Residential Fellowship, UConn Humanities Institute and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2020-2021 for *Archaeological Revival* (poems).

Felberbaum Family Faculty Fund Award, UConn Humanities Institute, research and writing award, 2021

Inductee, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, University of Connecticut Chapter (April 2019)

First Prize, The Nutmeg Poetry Award, Connecticut Poetry Society, 2017

Woodrow Wilson Mellon Mays University Fellows Travel and Research Grant, for travel to Providencia, Colombia, 2009

Multicultural and Outstanding Scholars Summer Fellowship, University of Connecticut, awarded by the Graduate School, 2004-2010

First Prize, Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest, University of Connecticut, 2009

Covenant Insurance Company Summer Fellowship, external research and writing grant, 2008

Aetna Graduate Creative Works-in-Progress Award, University of Connecticut, 2008
Social Science Research Council, Mellon Mays Dissertation Completion Grant, 2009-2010
The *Long River Review* Graduate Writing Award, University of Connecticut, 2007
Social Science Research Council, Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, 2007-2008
Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship, 2001-2003

CONFERENCE AND COLLOQUIA PRESENTATIONS

- “My Irish-themed Poetry & The Poetry of Eavan Boland and Michael Hartnett,” A Festival of Irish Women’s Writing. University of Connecticut, sponsored by Irish Studies and the Department of English, March 4, 2021.
- “Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous,” The Fifth Annual Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference. University of Maryland, March 1, 2018.
- “Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous,” (invited speaker). The Loving v. State of Virginia Discussion Panel. University of Connecticut, sponsored by the College of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Fund for Interdisciplinary Research Endeavors, November 30, 2017.
- “Narrative as the Most Essential Aspect of James Baldwin’s Legacy,” (invited speaker). The James Baldwin Project Conference. Quinebaug Valley Community College, 2015.
- “The Great Change in the Room: James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*.” The Seventh Annual Women’s Rights Conference. University of Connecticut, Storrs, 2005.
- “Through Afro-Caribbean Eyes: Another Way of Interpreting the Works of Michelle Cliff.” Senior Honors Seminar in English Conference. The City University of New York, Queens College, 2002.
- “Imagined Communities and Junot Diaz.” The Bornstein Conference on the Politics of Migration. The City University of New York, Queens College, 2000.

Personal Narrative Readings

“Living and Writing as Queer and Racially Ambiguous.” Porter Square Books, Boston, Massachusetts, February 4, 2019.

Poetry Readings

- One poem: “On Unity: A Poetic Narrative” invited by Anthony DiLizia to write an occasional poem for his official campaign kick-off for the United States House of Representatives for Connecticut’s 2nd District. Stonington, Connecticut, July 24, 2021.
- Select poems from *Providencia*. Riverwood Poetry Series. Real Art Ways. Hartford, Connecticut, November 7, 2020. Virtual Reading.
- Select poems from *Providencia*. Roar Reading Series. UConn Bookstore. Storrs, Connecticut, March 2, 2020.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Missing/Bodies: A Reading Across Genres Against Violent Forgetting. Head Hi Coffee Shop and Art Space. Brooklyn, New York City, October 6, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. The Tiny Gallery Reading, The Inaugural Connecticut Literary Festival, Real Art Ways, Hartford, Connecticut, October 5, 2019.

Two poems: "An Oracle Remembering Providencia's Formation" and "Isla Providencia" (both selected by President Thomas C. Katsouleas, based on the suggestion of Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cathy Schlund-Vials). The Inauguration of the University of Connecticut's 16th President. Storrs, Connecticut, October 4, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. (invited reader) The 21st Rose Garden Reading. Elizabeth Park, Hartford, Connecticut, June 15, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. The Arts Café, 25th Anniversary. Mystic, Connecticut, May 10, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. (invited reader) *Confluence/Confluencia* Program. Naugatuck Valley Community College-Waterbury, April 22, 2019.

Select poems from "Archaeological Revival." Alumni Reading/*Long River Review* Reading Series. University of Connecticut-Storrs, February 7, 2019.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Benefit Reading for The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), Book Culture Bookstore, Long Island City, New York City, September 20, 2018.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Here in Windham: A Gathering of Local Poets, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut, February 27, 2018.

Select poems from *Providencia*. The Charter Oak Reading Series, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, Connecticut, November 5, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Poetry Rocks! Reading Series, Arts Center East, Vernon, Connecticut, September 24, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Arm Your Voice Poetry Series, Hygienic Art Gallery, New London, Connecticut, March 15, 2017.

Select poems from *Providencia*. West End Poetry Series at Metro Café, Hartford, Connecticut, October 22, 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Poor Mouth Poetry Reading at An Beal Bocht Café, Bronx, New York City, May 11, 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Frequency Writers. The Providence Athanaeum-Providence, Rhode Island, April 2016.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Long River Reading Series-University of Connecticut-Storrs, October 2014.

Select poems from *Providencia*. Quinebaug Valley Community College Willimantic Center. Willimantic, October 2014.

Select poems from manuscript. *9th Poetry in the Park Series*. Curbstone Foundation-Julia de Burgos Park-Willimantic, 2012

Select poems from manuscript. *Long River Live!, A Celebration of National Poetry Month*. University of Connecticut-Storrs, 2010

Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2008

Select poems from manuscript. *Café Con Leche Poetry Exposition*. University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, 2007
Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2005
Select poems from manuscript. *The Long River Reading Series*. University of Connecticut Storrs, 2003

Podcast Interviews

September 27, 2019 The Nasiona: Cultivating the Seeds of Nonfiction, “Episode 16: The Beiging of America” interviewed by Nicole Zelniker.
<https://thenasiona.com/2019/09/27/episode-16-the-beiging-of-america/>

February 9, 2017 WHUS Connecticut, “Professors Are People Too” interviewd by Ali Oshinskie.
<https://whus.org/2017/02/professors-are-people-too-episode-3-sean-forbes/>

Radio Interviews

April 27, 2021 WECS 90.1 FM, Pan-American Express, with John Murphy (an interview about my book of poems *Providencia*)
June 2, 2014 WNPR Connecticut, Where We Live, with John Dankosky: “The Art and Power of Poetry.”

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Connecticut

Young Adult Literature
Advanced Creative Writing (narrative poetry and creative nonfiction)
Small Magazine Editing Course: *Long River Review*
Introduction to Poetry, Honors level, (Renaissance through twenty-first century)
Independent Study in: Advanced Poetry and Fiction Writing
Independent Study in: Modern Afro-Caribbean Poets
Independent Study in: Exploration of Poetic Forms
Introduction to Creative Writing (Poetry, Fiction, and Flash Fiction)
Introduction to Academic Writing through Literature: American Autobiography
Introduction to Academic Writing

ADVISING OF STUDENT RESEARCH

Honors Students, Major Advisor

Nicole Catarino. “Gravedigger: A Chapbook.” Senior Honors Thesis. To be completed May 2022.
Ellen Fuller. “The End of Times: A Young Adult Novel.” Senior Honors Thesis. To be completed May 2022.

Erik Renner. "Sundered: A Novel-in-Progress." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2021.

Lili Fishman. "she speaks with her tongue tucked behind her ear: a poetry chapbook." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2020.

Siobhan Dale. "Badhouse: A Collection of Prose Poems." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2019.

Brianna McNish. "The Midnight Carnival: Novel-in-progress." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2019.

Dimitri Papasian, "I Am A Nephilim: Short Stories." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2018.

Abigail Skinner, "And That Feels Like Magic To Me: A Memoir." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2018.

Jordan Holmes, "Beyond Prewriting: World Building for High Fantasy." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed December 2017.

Alan Polozov, "Drifters: A Novella." Senior Honors Thesis. Completed May 2015.

University Scholars, Associate Advisor

Ryan Glista. Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Completed May 2016.

SERVICE

University Service

University of Connecticut

Chair, The Mark Twain Distinguished Writer-in-Residency, 2018-present
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Member, 2018-2019

Chair, The 55th Wallace Stevens Poetry Program, 2017-2018

Chair, Edward R. and Frances S. Collins Literary Prizes, 2012-present

Aetna Chair Advisory Board member, 2012 to present

Chair, Creative Writing Committee, 2012-2018

Wallace Stevens Poetry Program Committee, 2009-present

Judge, Connecticut Writing Project Teacher Consultant Writing Contest, Nonfiction, 2012

Chair, Wallace Stevens Early College Experience Poetry Contest, 2007-present

Assistant Director for the Connecticut Writing Project, 2010-2011

Director of *Poetic Journeys*, 2009-2010

Judge, Connecticut Writing Project Teacher Consultant Writing Contest, Poetry, 2009-2011

Assistant Graduate Director of Creative Writing, 2008-2010

Tenure and Promotion Review

Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)

Other Service Activities (since 2013)

Judge, Poetry Panel, The Connecticut Book Award, The Connecticut Center for the Book, 2022

Judge, for The Nutmeg Poetry Award, The Connecticut Poetry Society, 2021.

Chair, Fiction Panel, The Connecticut Book Award, The Connecticut Center for the Book, 2020.

Judge, Fiction Panel, The Connecticut Book Award, The Connecticut Center for the Book, 2018-2019.

Judge for the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Out Loud regional competition, The Pomfret School, January 21, 2018

Poetry reader for the literary journal *Westview*, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 2013-2018.

Editorial Work and Boards

Associate Director, The Sancho Panza Literary Society, 2019-present.

Poetry Editor, *New Square*, The Official Publication of The Sancho Panza Literary Society, 2018-present.

Series Editor, *2LP Explorations in Diversity Series*. 2Leaf Press, 2016-present.

Board of Directors, The Intercultural Alliance of Artists & Scholars, New York City, 2013-2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELIVERED

July 21, 2016	Poetry Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
December 18, 2012	Poetry Writing Workshop, Hartford Classical Magnet High School, Hartford, CT
June 25, 2012	Advanced Poetry and Flash Fiction Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
October 29, 2011	Writing and Teaching in the Creative Genres Workshop, Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, CT
May 21, 2011	Prose Sketch Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
June 28, 2010	Advanced Poetry Writing Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Associated Writing Programs, Modern Language Association, The Sancho Panza Literary Society, American Association of University Professors

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Advanced reading, writing, and speaking)