

Laura M. Nicosia, Ph.D.

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Montclair State University
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EDUCATION

PhD	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	May 2003
	Dissertation: A Community of Liminal Stories and Tellers in <i>The Country of the Pointed Firs</i> and <i>Mama Day</i>	
	Director: Josephine Gattuso-Hendin	
MA	MONTCLAIR STATE COLLEGE	January 1992
BA	SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE	June 1982

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, School for Interdisciplinary Studies	2026+
Director, School for Interdisciplinary Studies, Interim	2025-2026
Professor, English.	2019+
Associate Professor of English.	2010-2019
Assistant Professor of English/Director of English Education. MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY.	2004-2010
English Instructor. INDIAN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, OAKLAND, NJ.	1995–2004
Director. EOF Writing Program. SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE.	1994–1995
Instructor/Composition Specialist. MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY.	1993–1994

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Critical Insights: Madness in Literature.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Anticipated Fall 2026.
- Critical Insights: Sidekicks in Literature & Popular Culture.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Spring 2026.
- Critical Survey of Mythology & Folklore: Legendary Creatures.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Summer 2025.
- Critical Insights: Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Summer 2025.
- Critical Insights: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2024.
- Critical Insights: Cormac McCarthy's All the Pretty Horses.* Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2023.
- The Encyclopedia of African American Writing, Fourth Edition.* Co-Edited with Dr.

James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Spring 2023.
Digital Literacy: Skills & Strategies. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Gale P. Winter 2022. Starred Review: *Library Journal*
Critical Insights: Virginia Woolf. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2022.
Notable Writers of the American West & the Native American Experience. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2021.
Critical Insights: Joseph Heller's Catch-22. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2021.
Notable American Women Writers, Vols 1 & 2. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2021.
Examining Images of Urban Life: A Resource for Teachers of Young Adult Literature. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Myers Education P. Summer 2020.
Critical Insights: John Steinbeck's The Pearl. Co-Edited with Dr. James Nicosia. Salem/Grey House P. Fall 2019.
Through a Distorted Lens: Media as Curricula and Pedagogy in the 21st Century. Co-Edited with Dr. Rebecca Goldstein. Sense Publishers, 2017. Nicosia, Laura and Rebecca Goldstein, Co-editors.
Educators Online: Preparing Today's Teachers for Tomorrow's Digital Literacies. Peter Lang, 2013.

VOLUME ADVISOR/ACADEMIC EDITOR—POETRY CRITICISM

"Elizabeth Bishop." *Poetry Criticism*. Summer 2025.
 "Lewis Carroll: Hunting of the Snark." *Poetry Criticism* Vol 215. Gale Cengage, 2019.

VOLUME ADVISOR/ACADEMIC EDITOR—SHORT STORY CRITICISM

"Jamaica Kincaid." *Short Story Criticism*. Anticipated Summer 2026.
 "Roald Dahl." *Short Story Criticism*. Vol 252. Gale Cengage, 2018.

VOLUME ADVISOR/ACADEMIC EDITOR—CHILDREN'S LITERATURE REVIEW

"Catch-22." *Children's Literature Review*. Gale Cengage, Anticipated Spring 2026.
 "Orson Scott Card." *Children's Literature Review*. Gale Cengage, 2025.
 "Winnie the Pooh." *Children's Literature Review*. Gale Cengage, 2023.
 "Beverly Cleary." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 229. Gale Cengage, 2019.
 "A. A. Milne." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 226. Gale Cengage, 2018.
 "Frank L. Baum." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 216. Gale Cengage, 2018.
 "Beatrix Potter." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 213. Gale Cengage, 2017.
 "Laurie Halse Anderson." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 213. Gale Cengage, 2017.
 "Walter Dean Myers." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 206. Gale Cengage, 2016.
 "John Green." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 204. Gale Cengage, 2016.
 "Gloria Naylor: *Mama Day*." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 202. Gale Cengage, 2015.
 "Louis Sachar." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 200. Gale Cengage, 2015.
 "Suzanne Collins." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 203. Gale Cengage, 2015.
 "Theodore Geisel." *Children's Literature Review*. Vol. 211. Gale Cengage, 2015.

VOLUME ADVISOR/ACADEMIC EDITOR—CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM

"Gloria Naylor: *The Women of Brewster Place*." *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Vol. 383. Gale Cengage, 2015.

VOLUME ADVISOR/ACADEMIC EDITOR—TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERARY CRITICISM

"Beatrix Potter." *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Anticipated Fall 2024.

"Alice Childress." *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*. Vol. 385. Gale Cengage, 2020.

CO-EDITOR SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

New Jersey English Journal: Young Adult Texts in the 21st Century 1.1 (2012).

ARTICLES—PEER REVIEWED

"Catch-22: Literary Research Center" Gale. Anticipated Summer 2026.

"The Collectors: Stories" *Readers Guide*. Penguin/Random House. Spring 2025.

"Cynthia Voigt: Her Life and Times." *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Young Adult Novelists, Second Series*. Vol. 391: 284-294. Gale. Fall 2022.

"Louis Sachar's *Holes*: Palimpsestic Use of the Fairy Tale to Privilege the Reader." *Children's Literature Review* 161: 70-74. (Reprint).

"Fairy Tales Redux: Jon Scieszka's Revitalization of a Genre for the 21st Century Kid." *New Jersey English Journal* 1.1 (2012): 48-56. (Co-authored).

"Young Adult Literature: Resurrecting Reading for 21st Century Students." *New Jersey English Journal* 1.1 (2012): 3-4. (Co-authored).

"Making Sense of the Lunacy: Synesthesia, Paratextual Documents and Thoughtless Memory in John Dufresne's *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*." *Mississippi Quarterly* 63.3-4 (Summer-Fall 2010).

"Literature Alive! Using Second Life to Teach American Literature." *The EDUCAUSE Review* 43.5 (Fall 2008).

"Adolescent Literature and Second Life: Teaching Young Adult Texts in the Digital World." *New Literacies: A Professional Development Wiki for Educators*. Improving Teacher Quality Project (ITQP): Federally Funded Grant.

"Louis Sachar's *Holes*: Palimpsestic Use of the Fairy Tale to Privilege the Reader." *The ALAN Review* 35.3 (Summer 2008): 24-29.

"Authorial Manipulation and Privileged Narrative: *Mama Day* and its Paratextual Documents." *Southern Studies* 14.2 (2007): 1-11.

"'Prodigiousness of Diction': Marianne Moore and Sir Thomas Browne, Secret Sharers of a Like Tradition." *College English Notes* 33.1 (2006): 1-5.

"Adolescent Literature of Witness: Testimonies from the American Margins." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* 17.1 (2006): 85-97.

"The Essential *If/Then*: Nathan Zuckerman as Flawed Liberal Ironist in Philip Roth's *The Counterlife*." *Readerly/Writerly Texts: Essays in Literary, Composition, and Pedagogical Theory* 11-12 (2004-2005): 119-132.

"Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs*." *The Explicator* 62.2 (2004): 89-91.

WHITE PAPERS, RESEARCH STUDIES, TECHNICAL REPORTS —SOLO AND COLLABORATIVE

Topical Themes and Sentiment Analysis of Social Media Posts Surrounding Book Bans During Banned Books Week 2024-2025. Fall 2025 (17 pgs). Co-written with Jin-A Choi, Laura Nicosia, Bond Benton, and Yi Luo. Joetta Di Bella and Fred C. Sautter III Center for Strategic Communication.

BOOK CHAPTERS—PEER REVIEWED

"How Dare You Make Her Black!: (Mis)Reading Race in *The Hunger Games* and a (Lost) Opportunity to Teach for Social Imagination, Responsibility and Justice."

- Through a Distorted Lens: Media as Curricula and Pedagogy in the 21st Century*. Sense Publishers, 2017: 85-102.
- "The Apocalypse and Other Silly Bits: Good Omens, Collaboration and Authorial One-Upmanship." *Critical Insights: Neil Gaiman*. Grey House, 2016: 161-177.
- "'Blood is not destiny, no matter what others may believe': Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* and Complications of the Monster." *Frontiers in American Children's Literature*. Cambridge Scholars P, 2016: 189-206.
- "Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place*: Evolution of a Genre." *Narratives of Community: Women's Short Story Sequences*. Cambridge Scholars P, 2015: 173-195. (Reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*).
- "Virtual Constructivism: Avatars in Action." *Handbook of Research on Social Interaction Technologies and Collaboration Software: Concepts and Trends*. Volume 2. Hershey: IGI Global, 2010: 623-638. (Reprint)
- "Virtual Constructivism: Avatars in Action." *Information Technology and Constructivism in Higher Education: Progressive Learning Frameworks*. IGI Global, 2009.
- "Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place*: Evolution of a Genre." *Narratives of Community: Women's Short Story Sequences*. Cambridge Scholars P, 2007: 173-195.
- Configuring History: Teaching the Harlem Renaissance Through Virtual Reality Cityscapes*. Eds. James Sosnoski, Patricia Harkin, and Bryan Carter. *E-Learning 5.2*: 217-220.
- The Second Life Herald: The Virtual Tabloid that Witnessed the Dawn of the Metaverse*. Peter Ludlow and Mike Wallace. *E-Learning 5.4*: 502-504.
- Web 2.0 for Schools: Learning and Social Participation*. Julia Davies and Guy Merchant. *Literacy: United Kingdom Literacy Association*.

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC REPORTS —PEER REVIEWED

- National Endowment for the Humanities: Michigan Humanities Council Five-Year External Review*. Fall 2022 (20 pgs).
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Online Accreditation Report: Critique, Responses and Appendices for Undergraduate Program." Fall 2014 (67 pgs.).
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Online Accreditation Report: Critique, Responses and Appendices for Undergraduate Program." Spring 2014 (55 pgs.).
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Online Accreditation Report: Critique, Responses and Appendices for Undergraduate Program." Spring 2012 (45 pgs.).
- "English Education." Visiting Committee Report: Spring 2011. 37-43.
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education: Rejoinder Text, Critique, Responses and Appendices for M.A.T. Program." Spring 2005 (64 pgs.).
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education: Rejoinder Text, Critique, Responses and Appendices for Postbaccalaureate Program." Spring 2005 (72 pgs.).
- "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education: Rejoinder Text, Critique, Responses and Appendices for Undergraduate Program." Spring 2005 (68 pgs.).
- "English Education." Visiting Committee Report: Spring 2005. 32-37.

ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS —NCATE PEER REVIEWED

- "Grammars of English: Language, Syntax and Mechanics Survey." 2012+.
- "Student Teacher Mentor Assessment: Summative Report on Student Teaching." 2011+.
- "Methods of Teaching English: Secondary." Undergraduate Assessment, 2011+.
- "Methods of Teaching English: Secondary." Graduate Assessment, 2011+.
- "Young Adult Literature Multi-modal and Visual and Multimodal Literacy Assessment." 2011+.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "With a Little Help from Our Friends." *Synergy* 12.2 (2004): 5-6.

COURSES CREATED

- Seminar in American Literature: Young Adult Literature, Pop Culture, and the Canon. ENGL 601. Spring 2019.
- Introduction to Literature: Best Sellers and Popular Fiction. ENGL113. Spring 2018.
- American Literature I: Beginnings to 1890. ENGL 228. Co-creators: Melinda Knight, Emily Cheng. Fall 2012.
- American Literature II: From 1890 to Present. ENGL 229. Co-creators: Melinda Knight, Emily Cheng. Fall 2012.
- Young Adult Literature. ENGL 305. Fall 2009.

PROGRAMS CREATED

- Graduate Low-Residency Certificate Program in English: Clifton High School Pilot Project. Initial cohort: Spring 2019.
- Post-BA Middle School Teacher of Language Arts Second Endorsement. (Elementary School Language Arts: ESLA) Initial cohort: Fall 2011.

ACADEMIC GRANTS REFEREED AS EXPERT EXTERNAL REVIEWER

- City University of New York (CUNY): Collaborative Incentive Research Grant Program: Spring 2014. *Promoting Problem Solving and Collaboration Using 3D Simulations*.

ACADEMIC TEXTBOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS REFEREED

- "Depression in Young Adult Literature: Critical Literacy in *We Are All So Good at Smiling*." *Study & Scrutiny*, 2026.
- Finding Light in the Shadows of the Works of Neil Gaiman*. U P of Mississippi, 2017.
- "War and Transgression in Scott Westerfeld's Trilogy *Leviathan*." *The Lion and the Unicorn*, 2016.
- "Satan in Clay: Childhood and the Malleable Human Form in Will Vinton's *The Adventures of Mark Twain* and Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, 2016.
- "Televised Virtues: District 12 and the Culture of Character in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*." *The Lion and the Unicorn*, 2014.
- "Teaching Panels: Using Graphic Narratives in the Composition Classroom." *SANE Journal: Sequential Art Narrative in Education*, 2013.
- "Is There an Author Behind the Text?: A Literary Aesthetic Driven Approach to Interactive Media." *New Media and Society*, 2012.
- "Critical Pedagogic Analysis: An Alternative to User Feedback for (Re)Designing Distance Learning Materials for Language Teachers." *English Teaching: Practice and Critique*, 2012.
- "Gods, Wizards, and the Problem of Abysmal Parents: Parenting, Agency, and

- Subject Formation in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and The Olympians* and J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter Series*." *The Lion and the Unicorn*, 2012.
- "Light Writing: Imaging Verbal, Visual, and Virtual Approaches to Composition." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, 2010.
- "A Constructivist Approach to Online Learning: The Community of Inquiry Framework." *Information Technology and Constructivism in Higher Education: Progressive Learning Frameworks*, 2008.
- "Transgression and Agency: The Grotesque Body in Gloria Naylor's *Bailey's Café*." *African American Review*, 2008.
- The Short Story, Form and Content*. McGraw-Hill Higher Ed, 2007.
- "Teaching Translation." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, 2006.
- Young Adult Literature in the 21st Century*. McGraw-Hill Higher Ed, 2005.
- Jewett, Sarah Orne. *Sarah Orne Jewett's The Country of the Pointed Firs*. Ed. Deborah Carlin. Broadview P, 2005.
- Begoray, Deborah. *Teaching Multiple Literacies in Middle and High School*. Holcomb Hathaway, 2005.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Google News Initiative, Co-PI. \$300,000 + \$300,000** Funded Spring 2026.
- Principal Co-Investigator.** *AI Across the Humanities: Faculty Development, Student Engagement, and Workforce Readiness*. (NEH). 2025.
- Principal Investigator.** *Expanding our Definition of Narratives: How Might Reading Fallout 3 Assist Both 2-Year College and University Students to Read More Closely & Successfully?* Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant. Level II (NEH). 2014.
- Principal Co-Investigator.** "Student Badges." MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Competition. 2012.
- Principal Investigator.** "Learning to Read with New Eyes." National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). 2011.
- Participant.** "Houses and Concepts of Home: Place and Belonging in a Global World." New Jersey Council for the Humanities Grant. Funded for 2009.
Primary writer: Dr. Rhoda Halperin.
- Principal Investigator.** "Reading Renaissance: Enhancing Student Learning in a Second Life Community." Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant: NEH. 2008.
- Principal Investigator.** "Computer Gaming and Authentic Learning." Teachers for a New Era: Carnegie Learning Network Mini-Grant. 2007.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- VR Character Project: Innovation Lab. Tech in Society Team. Spring 2025
- "Sachar's *Wayside School is Falling Down* and *Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger*: Multimodal Narratives that Belie Wackiness and Mask Higher Learning Reading Development." *Language Arts*. (Under Review)
- The Posthuman Chimera and Monstrous Other in Popular Culture and YA Literature* (book project).
- "Amy Sarig King: Bad-Ass Writer of Kick-Ass Female Protagonists"
- "'The end can't happen before the middle,' or Can It?: Einstein, Chronotope, Narrative Gymnastics, and Knot-Tying in Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me*." Islanded Narratives and Transatlantic Storytelling: *Mama Day* as Transatlantic Text
- Images of Teachers and Schooling in Louis Sachar's *My Weird School Series*.
- "A Strayaway in Search of the Referential: Cartographic Narrative in Sarah Orne

Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs*."
 "Cognitive Narrative Theory and Empathetic Readings in Young Adult Literature."

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS: LITERARY

- "*The Boy in the Black Suit*: Place and Geography Building Character in Black Urban Communities." Children's Literature Association, 5/2026
- "The Elusive *Frankenstein*: Provoking Thought, Inspiring Creativity, and Sparking Dialogue." *Frankenstein, Frankly* Conference, 5/2025
- "Every Library/Every Voice: Our Public Libraries, an Overlooked Resource for Multicultural Communities?" Telemundo Interview/Panel, 2/2025.
- "Every Library/Every Voice: The Bateman Challenge Interview." 1/2025.
- "The Sensual City: Jason Reynolds's *When I Was the Greatest* and *The Boy in the Black Suit*." American Literature Association, 5/2023.
- "Rural Subdivisions, Toxic Scat, and Betrayals: Empathy, Memory, and the Fantastic in *Me and Marvin Gardens*." Children's Literature Association, 6/2020.
- "The Accidental Other: Alex London's *Proxy* and the Politics of Inherited Guilt, Rampant Capitalism, and the Gay Character Who Doesn't Die at the End." American Literature Association, 5/2019.
- "Novels in Verse: Verses in Novels." Pequannock Township Public Library. 4/2019.
- "Exploring Multiple Diversities in Contemporary Fiction." Livingston Public Library. 4/2019.
- Panel Moderator.** "Speaking Your Truth." Montclair Literary Festival. 3/2019.
- Invited Keynote Address.** "Doorways to Teaching in a Digital World." New Jersey Council of Teachers of English Annual Regional Conference. Spring 2019.
- "Why We Can't Put Dystopian Fiction Down." Public Scholars Project of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for the City of Jersey City. 3/2019.
- "Curricular Constructions in/of *My Weird School*, 1-21." International Critical Media Literacy Conference. 2/2019.
- "Exploring Diversities Through Contemporary American Fiction." Public Scholars Project of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for Livingston Township. 2/2019.
- Invited Speaker for the Great American Read Project.** "How We See Ourselves in What We Read." Public Scholars Project of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for Scotch Plains Public Library. 11/2018.
- "*Glory O'Brien's [Paratextual] History of the [Trumpian] Future*. Society for the Study of American Women Writers, 11/2018.
- Panel Moderator.** "Courting Fear, Hate, Forgiveness." Assembly on Literature of Adolescents. 11/2018.
- "How *Frankenstein* Influences Contemporary PostHuman Chimeras." Departmental Discussion Panel. 10/2018.
- Invited Speaker for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.** "How We See Ourselves in What We Read." Public Scholars Project of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. 10/2018.
- "Performing a Self in Atwood's *Handmaid's Tale*: A Community College and State University Build and Play Choose-Your-Own-Adventures for a Common Novel." Children's Literature Association, 10/2018. Accepted.
- "Rural Subdivisions, Toxic Scat, Sexual Consent, and Betrayals; Empathy, Memory, and the Fantastic in *Me and Marvin Gardens*." American Literature Association,

5/2018.

"Social Justice in the ELA Class." Teachers as Scholars, 4/2018.

Reader. "Sour Candy": Julie Eisenlohr. Johnny Muller Memorial Scholarship in Fiction Winner, 4/2018.

Panel Moderator. "Beyond Classics: How Contemporary Writers Are Moving Beyond the Young Adult Sci-Fi/Fantasy Canon and Reinventing the Genre." In discussion with Alex London, Yvonne Ventresca, Sara Beth Durst, Josiah Bancroft, 3/2018.

Featured Speaker. "Letters to Secretary De Vos: Discussions We'd Like to Have with You About Education." Montclair Literary Festival, 3/2018.

National Writing Day: Lyndhurst Public Schools. "Book Levels Are Less Important Than Interests: Getting Kids Interested in Reading & Writing." Co-presented with Dr. Jim Nicosia, 10/2017.

Featured Expert. "Gendered Books: Are There Boy Books and Girl Books?" Barnes & Noble. Teachers Week Events, Clifton, NJ, 10/2017.

"Navigating *Mama Day* and *The Country of the Pointed Firs* as Islanded Narratives of Community." Society for the Study of American Women Writers. U of Bordeaux, France, 7/2017.

Featured Speaker. "A Quiet Passion: Emily Dickinson in Film." Arthouse Film Festival. Monmouth U, 4/2017.

Featured Expert. "Reading in the Time of Dystopia." Barnes & Noble. Teachers Week Events, Clifton, NJ, 10/2016.

Panel Moderator. "A Long Time Ago, In a Galaxy Far, Far Away...: (Re)Visions and Mashups of *Star Wars* Literature and Shakespeare." National Council of Teachers of English/Assembly on Literature of Adolescents. Minneapolis, 11/2015.

"Visions of Social Justice: Reflections of an Interdisciplinary Workshop for K-12 Educators." National Network for Educational Renewal. Chico, Ca., 10/2015.

Keynote Address. New Jersey Council of Teachers of English. "Teaching for Social Justice Using Contemporary Young Adult Literature." College of Saint Elizabeth, 9/2015.

Radio Interview. "Social Justice in Young Adult Literature." Humanities Connection/New Jersey Council for the Humanities. WFDU-FM, 4/2015.

Podcast. "Social Justice in Young Adult Literature" (in six parts). New Jersey Council for the Humanities, 3/2015. <http://njch.org/humanities-connection/social-justice-in-young-adult-literature/>

"Peter: the Other Wiggin." American Literature Association. Boston, 5/2015.

"So, You Want to be an English Major?" Weehawken HS, Recruitment Visit, 3/2015.

"Young Adult Literature and NonFiction: How Might They Offer Meaningful Learning?" Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER) Summer Conference, 6/2014.

"The Terrible Monsters Max and Coraline Know, But Can't Express: Sendak and Gaiman Frighten & Honor Children." American Literature Association. Washington DC, 5/2014.

"The Rise of Dystopian Young Adult Fiction: An Invitation Beyond the Classroom." National Council of Teachers of English. Boston, 11/2013.

"The Literary History of (U)(Dys)topian Literatures." New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Manchester, NJ, 11/2013.

"Writing for the Academic Market." Speaking Through Silence. Montclair State U, 10/2013.

- Keynote Address.** "New Young Adult Literature: Blurring Disciplinary Boundaries and Promoting a Culture of Readers." Pascack Valley Regional Schools, 7/2013.
- "'Blood is not destiny, no matter what others may believe': Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* and Complications of the Monster." American Literature Association. Boston, 5/2013.
- "Dystopian Fiction: Futuristic Ideas that Capture Contemporary Imaginations." New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Two 17-hour workshops, 4/2013.
- Radio Interview.** "Dystopian Young Adult Literature and Contemporary Readership." Humanities Connection/New Jersey Council for the Humanities. WFDU-FM, 4/2013.
- "Learning to Read with New Eyes." Council of English Leaders. Chicago, 11/2011.
- "Blurring the Boundaries Between YA and Adult Literatures." Clifton, NJ, 10/2011.
- "Literary Theory in the Secondary English Class." Clifton, NJ, 10/2011.
- Keynote Address.** "Social Media in English and English Education." The English Companion, 7/2011.
- "Vertical Alignment: Language Arts to English Grades 8-12." Caldwell/West Caldwell, NJ, 1/2011.
- "Young Adult Literature Breaks New Grounds." Caldwell/West Caldwell, 2/2011.
- "Teachers as Scholars: Contemporary Young Adult Literature and The Classics." Montclair, 11/2010 & 12/2010.
- "Coming of Age Literature." MSUNER Summer Conference, 6/2010.
- "Bridge Literature: The Bildungsroman and Contemporary YAL." New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). Voorhees, NJ, 6/2010.
- "Young Adult Vampiric Literature." NJCH. Manchester, NJ, 6/2010.
- "Modern Bildungsroman." NJCH. Manchester, NJ, 6/2010.
- "Coming of Age in Contemporary Literature and the Media." Humanities in the Schools Day. Institute for the Humanities. Montclair State U, 12/2009.
- "Contemporary Vampiric Heroes in Search of Community: Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight*, Charlaine Harris' *Southern Vampire Mysteries* and Alan Ball's *True Blood*." Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). Philadelphia, 10/2009.
- "Coming of Age Literature." 40-hour graduate seminar. NJCH. Stockton C, 7/2009.
- "Coming of Age Literature." MSUNER Summer Conference, 6/2009.
- "Coming of Age via Literature and Technology." Lacey Township Schools. NJCH. Lacey/Lanoka Harbor, 04/2009.
- "Reading the Self Through the Domestic: Yeziarska's *Bread Givers* and Material Culture." NJCH/Center for Archeological Studies. Montclair State U, 03/2009.
- Moderator.** "Narratives of the Home: The Van Reyper-Bond Families in Montclair, NJ" NJCH/Center for Archeological Studies. Montclair State U, 03/2009.
- "Boys and Girls Coming of Age in the 21st Century." Hopatcong, NJ. NJCH, 10/2008.
- "Coming of Age Literature." 40-hour graduate seminar. NJCH. Monmouth U, 7/2008.
- "Making Sense of the Lunacy: Synesthesia, Paratextual Documents and Thoughtless Memory in John Dufresne's *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*." American Literature Association (ALA). San Francisco, 5/2008.
- "The Observed Self in Action: Avatars as Rhetoric, or Using Autoethnographic Writing in Second Life." National Council of Teachers of English. New York, 11/2007.
- "Young Adult Literature and Theory: Perfect Together." Teachers as Scholars Woodrow Wilson Lecture Series. Montclair State U, 11/2007.

- "Louis Sachar's *Holes*: Palimpsestic Use of the Fairy Tale to Privilege the Reader." ALA. Boston, 5/2007.
- "Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place*: Evolution of a Genre." SSAWW. Philadelphia, 11/2006.
- "Metafictional Borderlands of the Novel: Navigating Meaning in *Mama Day*." ALA. San Francisco, 5/2006.
- "Metafictional Borderlands of the Novel: Navigating Meaning in *Mama Day*." New Jersey College English Association (NJCEA). South Orange, NJ, 3/2006.
- "Blackboard, Blasts, and Bonding: Using the Internet to Strengthen Tripartite Connections." National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER). Myrtle Beach, 11/2005.
- "The Essential 'If/Then': Nathan Zuckerman as Flawed Liberal Ironist in Philip Roth's *The Counterlife*." NEMLA. Montreal, 4/1996.
- "Bi-Cultural Female Storytelling in Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place*." Theoretical Approaches to Marginalized Literatures National Conference. U of Montana, 3/1995.
- "Unfettered Language: Creative Writing as Self-Exploration." New Jersey Parents of Gifted Offspring. Princeton, 11/1994.
- "The Importance of Stories and Storytelling in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*." Simmons College Graduate Conference. Boston, 4/1994.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS: PEDOGOGICAL

- "From News Deserts to Information Ecosystems: Teaching Human Judgment Through Community Journalism in the Age of AI." The International Academic Forum, Kyoto. In Review. 11/2026.
- Keynote Address.** "My Blended Learning & Teaching Journey: How I Use Collaborative LMS in My Upper-Level English Electives." New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative Blended Learning Institute, 6/2017.
- "So, You're New to Canvas. Now What?" Summer Institute: Technology Training & Integration Group. Montclair State U., 6/2017.
- "Using Collaborative Technologies to Engage Student Learning." Summer Institute: Technology Training & Integration Group. Montclair State U., 6/2016.
- Wikipedia in the Classroom.* Montclair State U., 3/2015.
- "Educators are Digital Citizen, Too." National Network for Educational Renewal Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM, 10/2013.
- Keynote Address.** "Reading Instruction Across the Curriculum: Improving Comprehension and Understanding for Secondary Students." Pascack Valley Regional Schools, 7/2013.
- Keynote Address.** "Educators Online: Teachers Are Digital Citizens, Too." MSUNER Summer Conference, 6/2013.
- "Becoming a Prosumer Educator in a Consumer Society: Using iBooks Author in the English Methods Class." Emerging Learning Design 2012, 6/2012
- "Wordle Me This: Using Cloud Technology in the English Class." Caldwell/West Caldwell Elementary Schools, 10/2010.
- "Fostering Democratic and Global Citizenry: The NNER at the Digital Crossroads." NNER. Normal, Ill., 10/2010.
- Keynote Address.** "Social Media and Education: It's Not the Enemy." English Companion Summer Webstitute (online), 7/2010.

- "Writing Across the Curriculum: Using Collaborative and Social Media to Stimulate Student Writing." Demarest, NJ, 1/2010.
- "Pedagogical Validity for Teaching Second or Foreign Languages in Second Life." New Jersey Higher Education ESL Conference. Montclair State U., 10/2009.
- "Virtual Nurturing: Using the Internet to Support and Model Teacher Excellence." NNER. Bellevue, Wash., 10/2009.
- "And Justice for AI: Using Artificial Environments to Create Community and Teach Diversity. NNER. Bellevue, Wash, 10/2009.
- "Social Networking in the Higher Education Classroom." Technology Training and Integration Group. Montclair State U., 6/2009.
- "Coming of Age in Media and Literature." Teaching with the Stars Annual Summer Conference. MSUNER, 6/2009.
- "Ning: A Social Learning Network for Educators." College of Education and Social Services Summer Tech Camp. Montclair State U., 5/2009.
- "Social Bookmarking: Collaborative Technologies for Higher Education." College of Education and Social Services Summer Tech Camp. Montclair State U., 5/2009.
- "Hybrid Environments for Higher Education." College of Education and Social Services Summer Tech Camp. Montclair State U., 5/2009.
- "Using Wikis in Higher Education Literature Classes." College of Education and Social Services Summer Tech Camp. Montclair State U., 5/2009.
- "Collaborative Technologies and PLNs." New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE). Montclair State U., 03/2009.
- "Pedagogical Validity for Using Second Life in an English Class." Presentation to New Jersey State Legislature. Montclair State U., 11/2008.
- "Portrait of a Microblogger: Have you Twittered or Plurked Today?" Northeast Connect Conference 2008: Leading and Inspiring change for Successful Learning. Montclair State U., 11/2008.
- "Using Second Life to Teach Middle School Language Arts Curriculum." Hopatcong, NJ. NJCH, 10/2008.
- "Expanding the Bridges: The MSU Network for Educational Renewal Partnership at Work." NNER National Conference, 9/2008.
- Keynote Address.** "Excitement + Immersion= Deep Learning." MSUNER Summer Conference. 6/2008.
- "Literary Pursuits in Second Life: Bringing Collaborations to the Metaverse." MUVEing Education Forward. Montclair State U., 6/2008.
- "Second Life: Virtual Environment as a Pedagogical Tool." Learning 2.0: From Preschool to Beyond. Montclair State U., 5/2008.
- "Teacher Education at MSU: A Proud Past, A Promising Future." The Centennial Event. College of Education and Human Services, Montclair State U., 3/2008.
- "Second Life in Higher Education." Northeast Connect Annual Conference. CUNY Graduate Center, New York, 11/2007.
- "Profiles in Courage." Center of Pedagogy: Continuing Conversations Series." Montclair State U., 10/2007.
- "Virtual Worlds: Second Life and Pedagogical Validity." NJ Edge Technology in Education Conference. Plainsboro, 10/2007.
- "Using Second Life for Teaching and Learning." New Faculty Seminar. Montclair State U., 10/2007.
- "Building Virtual Bridges to Sustain Simultaneous Renewal." NNER National Conference. Charleston, 10/2007.

- "Second Life: Possibilities for Teaching and Learning in a Virtual World." Teaching and Learning Resource Center. Montclair State U., 4/2007.
- "*Carpe Momentum: Living in the Moment Between Two Great Darks.*" Humanities in the Schools Day. Montclair State U., 12/2006.
- "Engaging the Arts and Sciences Disciplines in Teacher Preparation." The Learning Network: Teachers for a New Era Second Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 11/2006.
- "SparkNotes, PinkMonkey and Cliff's Notes—Oh My!" The New Jersey Writing Alliance. West Long Branch, 5/2006.
- "Faculty Forum: Using Blackboard to Foster Community." Montclair State U., 12/2005.
- "Your First Day in an English Class at Montclair State University." New Student Experience Program. Montclair State U., 6/2005.
- "Sharing Standards: Towards a Harmony of Practice in English Education." Annual Educational Advance: New Jersey Network for Educational Renewal. Montclair State U., 1/2005.
- Bergen County district-wide professional development courses (2001-2):
- "Catching Plagiarism Using the Internet."
 - "Using Guided Annotation, Note-taking and Marginalia to Enhance Close Reading of Text."
 - "Using Creative Writing as an Exploration of Self." New Jersey Association for Gifted Children. Princeton, 3/1996.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- International Advisory Board and Scientific Committee. *Society for Modern English Research (SMER)*. Spring 2026+.
- Judge. Nilsen-Donelson Award Committee: *The ALAN Review*. Spring 2020.
- Editorial Board: *International Journal of English Language Studies*, Spring 2018.
- Judge. Society for the Study of American Women Writers Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Spring 2018.
- Named New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) Public Scholar, Fall 2017.
- Chair Conference Committee for New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE), 2007-2018+.
- Judge. NJCH: Teacher of the Year Award, Spring 2015.
- President. NJCTE, 2011-2015.
- External Reviewer for Millersville University English Department, Spring 2014.
- External Reviewer for Tenure/Promotion. St. John's University English Department, Fall 2013.
- Chair. "The Urban YA Experience: Coe Booth." Assembly on Literature of Adolescence. Chicago, 11/2011.
- Engaged Teaching Mentor. Montclair State U., 2011-2012.
- Chair. *Teaching English in the 21st Century*. NJCTE Conference. 4/2012.
- Chair. *The Varied Voices of Writing*. NJCTE Conference. 3/2011.
- Chair. *How and Why We Create*. NJCTE Conference. 3/2010.
- State Representative for Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, 2009+.
- Chair. "Perspectives on Contemporary Popular Culture" panel. Society for the Study of American Women Writers National Conference. Philadelphia, 2009.
- Editorial Board. *Education in a Democracy: A Journal of the NNER*, 2008+.
- Conference Liaison/Chairperson National Day on Writing: NJCTE, 2009.
- Executive Board Member. NJCTE, 2007+.
- Agenda for Education in a Democracy Summer Symposium, 7/2006.

Carnegie Corporation: Teachers for a New Era, 2005+.
Leadership Associates Program (Cohort 10), 2004+.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

MSU Liaison for Boys & Girls Club of Clifton, Fall 2017-Present.
Search Committee for the Center for Writing Excellence Assistant Director, Fall 2019.
Search Committee for Center of Pedagogy Program Director, Spring 2019.
Liaison for Boys & Girls Club of Clifton and Montclair State U. Pilot Project, Fall 2017+.
Search Committee for English Education Clinical Specialist, Spring/Summer 2016.
Search Committee for Center of Pedagogy Deputy Director, Spring/Summer 2016.
edTPA Steering Committee, Spring 2016-2017.
Revising Assessments for Teacher Education Task Force, 2015- 2016.
Retention Admissions for Teacher Education Task Force (RATE), 2004+.
Co-Teaching Internship Steering Committee, 2013-2015.
BA/MAT Dual Certification Content Area Steering Committee, 2010-2011.
Teachers for a New Era Task Force, 2009.
Center for Writing Excellence Director Search Committee, 2008.
Teacher Education Policy Committee. Voting member, 2004+.
Teacher Education Admissions and Retention Committee. Voting member, 2004+.
Teacher Education Assessment Ad Hoc Committee, 2006+.
Professional Sequence Subcommittee, 2004-2006.

COLLEGE SERVICE

Interim Director for the (new) School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Spring 2025+.
CHSS Liaison for Boys & Girls Club of Clifton and Montclair State U Pilot Project, Fall 2017+.
Accepted Students Day. Montclair State U., 4/2017.
CHSS Committee on Teaching Excellence 2016+.
NCATE Departmental Coordinator for English Education, 2011+.
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Strategic Directions Committee, 2010+.
CHSS Teacher Education Coordinators and Directors Committee, 2004+.
Second Life CHSS Investigative Pilot Project. Founding Member, 2007-2010.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Graduate Program Director, Fall 2024-Spring 2026.
Interim Graduate Program Coordinator, 2019-2020.
5-Year Assessment Committee, 2020+.
Chair, Visiting Writers Committee 2019+.
Visiting Writers Committee, 2018+.
Department Curriculum Committee, 2016+.
Co-Chair English Education Committee, 2017+.
Department English Awards Judge, 2005+.
Thinking About Graduate School Panelist, 11/2017.
Interim Summer Chair, 2017.
Deputy Chair, 2016-2018.
Chair, English Council, 2016-2018.

Graduate Committee, 2016+.
 Department Personnel Action Committee, 2015+.
 NCATE Departmental Coordinator, 2011-2016.
 English Council, Fall 2012.
 Election Committee, 2011-2015.
 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2009, 2014+.
 Assessment Committee, 2012-2016.
 English Council, 2010-2012.
 Review of Major Committee, 2009-2010.
 Departmental Sabbatical Review Committee, 2010.
 CHSS Strategic Directions Committee, 2009-2010.
 Departmental Personnel Action Committee, 2009-2010.
 Associate Dean Search Committees (2 positions), 2009.
 Review of the Major Ad Hoc Committee, 2009.
 Department Personnel Action Committee, 2009-2010.
 Coordinator. "Publishing Today's Young Adult Literature: Censorship and Critical Reception." Featuring M, Jerry Weiss. Visiting Writers Committee, 2009.
 English Department Website Development Team, 2008-2009.
 Creative Writing Search Committee, 2007-2008.
 Visiting Writers Committee, 2007-2009.
 Elections Committee, 2007-2010.
 Coordinator, Mark Strand Poetry Reading: Visiting Writers Committee, 2007.
 Chair English Education Committee, 2006+.
 Frazee Chair Search Committee, 2006.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Board of Trustees Clifton Boys & Girls Club Fall 2021-Present
 Chair, Program Committee, 2023+
 Montclair Literary Festival: Children's & Young Adult Co-Coordinator, Spring 2018-2019.
 Liaison for Boys & Girls Club of Clifton and Montclair State U Pilot Project, Fall 2017-Present.
 Public Scholar for NJ Council of the Humanities, 2017+.
 President, Clifton Mustangs Band Parent Association, 2015-2017.
 MSUNNER Study Team for Belleville Board of Education, 2009.
 Newark Public Schools Reading List Task Force, 2009.
 Liaison. Montclair State-Clifton ESL tutoring program. School 13, Clifton, 2008-2009.
 Consultant for Caldwell/West Caldwell Board of Education. English Department Vertical Alignment Committee, 2006.

HONORS

Notable Writers of the American West & the Native American Experience.
 Salem/Grey House. Fall 2021. **CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2023.**
Digital Literacies: Skills & Strategies. Salem/Grey House. **Starred Review Library Journal** and **CHOICE Top 75 Community College Resource 2022.**
Notable American Women Writers Vols. 1 and 2. Salem/Grey House. **CHOICE Top 75 Community College Resource 2021.**

Hall of Fame. New Jersey Council of Teachers of English, Spring 2017-2018.
 Nominated CHSS Dean's Service Award, Spring 2017.
 Named to Fordham Digital Literacies Coalition, Fall 2016.
 Nomination to Executive Board of Directors, ALAN, Summer 2016.
 Exemplary Teacher Educator. New Jersey Higher Education Showcase, 2012.
 Educator of the Year. New Jersey Council of Teachers of English, 2012.
 Nominated Advising Faculty of the Year, 2011-2012.
 Top 100 Best Educator Micro-Blogger/Twitter (#27), Summer/Fall 2009.
 Montclair State University Teaching Fellow, 2007.
 American Diploma Project. Nominated, 2006.
 Governor's Teacher of the Year Award, 2004.
 Walt Disney Teacher Hand Award. Nominated, 2003.
 Nominated, Princeton U Distinguished Secondary School Teaching Award, 2002.
 Kappa Delta Pi Teacher Recognition Award. Montclair, 1994.
 Mary Bondon Award for the Teaching of English Literature. English Department,
 Montclair, 1990.

CERTIFICATIONS

Summer Institute for Online Teaching and Learning, 2016.
 Engaged Teaching Fellows, 2012.
 State of New Jersey Supervisory, 2001.
 State of New Jersey Elementary School Teacher, 1987.
 State of New Jersey Teacher of English, 1982.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

American Literature Association
 Assembly for Literature of Adolescents
 Children's Literature Association
 Council of English Leaders
 Digital Americanists (Founding Member)
 Digital Literacies Coalition (Fordham U)
 Emily Dickinson Society
 International Reading Association
 International Society for Technology in Education
 National Council of English Educators
 National Council of Teachers of English
 National Network for Educational Renewal
 New Jersey Council of Teachers of English
 New Media Consortium
 Society for the Study of American Women Writers