V I T A

Clint McCown

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**EDUCATION**

M.F.A. Indiana University 1985

University of Alabama 1980-1981

M.A. Wake Forest University 1978

Circle-In-The-Square Theatre School 1973-1974

B.A. Wake Forest University 1974

Majors: M.F.A. Fiction Writing

Thesis: novel

M.A. English Literature

Thesis: *An Exegetical Analysis of*

*Typological Prefiguration in Chaucer’s*

*“Nun’s Priest’s Tale”*

B.A. English Literature

Speech Communications and Theatre Arts

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2004-Present

Director of Creative Writing, 2009-2011, 2016-2018

Graduate Fiction Faculty, Vermont College of Fine Arts Low-

Residency MFA program, 2005-present

Creative Consultant, HBO Television, 2011-2013

Graduate Fiction Faculty, Stonecoast Low-Residency MFA program,

2001-2005

Professor, Beloit College, 1984-2004

Chair, Department of English, 1991-1994; 1999-2001

Director of Creative Writing, 1988-2004

Full Professor, 1996

Chief Marshal of the College, 2002-2004

Editor/Publisher, *Beloit Fiction Journal,* 1984-2004

Screenwriter, Warner Bros., 1998-99

Visiting Professor, University of Glasgow, Fall 1988

Associate Instructor, Indiana University, 1981-1984

Editor, *Indiana Review,* 1982-1983

Associate Instructor, University of Alabama, 1980-1981

Instructor, James Sprunt Technical College (NC) 1979

Capitol Reporter, Alabama Information Network, 1978

Artist-in-Residence, North Carolina Visiting Artist Program,

Johnston Technical Institute, 1976-1978

Assistantship in English, Wake Forest University, 1975-1976

Actor, Circle-in-the-Square(NYC),National Shakespeare Company,

Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre Company, others, 1973-75

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS** (selected)

Fiction Faculty, High Road Literary Conference, Winston-Salem,

NC, Mar. 2019, again in March 2020

Featured Poet, Gathering of Poets, Winston-Salem, NC, Mar. 2018

Novelist-in-Residence, Vermont College of Fine Arts Novel

Retreat, May 24-30, 2015; May 23-29, 2016

Fiction Faculty, Nightsun Summer Writers’ Conference, Frostburg,

WV, July 2014

Conference Director, Writing for Stage & Screen Conference,

Vermont College of Fine Arts, June 2010

Screenwriting Faculty, Writing for Stage & Screen Conference,

Vermont College of Fine Arts, June 2010

Writer-in-Residence, Chautauqua, New York, summer 2009

Fiction Faculty, Post-Graduate Writers Conference, Vermont

College of Fine Arts, summers 2008, 2009

Fiction Faculty, Gettysburg Writers Conference, summer 2007,

summer 2011

Visiting Fiction Writer-in-Residence, Randolph-Macon Woman’s

College, spring semester 2006

General Editor, Association of Writers and Writing Programs

*Intro Journals Project,* 1999-2003

Contributing Editor, *Colorado Review,* 1997-present

Fiction Faculty, Indiana University Writers’ Conference, summer

2003

Fiction Faculty, Wildacres Writers’ Conference (NC), summers

2000, 2001

Fiction Faculty, Antioch Writers’ Workshop (OH), summers 1995-

1999, 2001, 2003

Fiction Faculty, Blooming Grove Writers’ Conference (IL), summer

1994

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**(selected):

Inducted, Wake Forest University Writers’ Hall of Fame, 2021

Notable Essay Citation, *Best American Essays, 2021*

Scholarship named in my honor, Vermont College of Fine Arts,

2020

Notable Essay citation, *Best American Essays,* 2018,

Notable Essay Citation, *Best American Essays,* 2016

Midwest Book Award, 2013

S. Mariella Gable Prize for Fiction, 2004

Outstanding Achievement in Literature Citation, Wisconsin

Library Association, 2001

Wake Forest University New Play Festival Winner, 1997

Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Adult Fiction, 1995

Friends of Literature Prize for Best Adult Fiction, 1995

Barnes & Noble’s *Discover Great New Writers* designation, 1995

American Fiction Prize, 1991, final judge Wallace Stegner

American Fiction Prize, 1993, final judge Louise Erdrich

Wisconsin Artist New Work grant, 1991

National Endowment for the Arts grant, 1989

Academy of American Poets Prize, 1982

Associated Press Award for Documentary Excellence, 1978

Germaine Breé Book Award (poetry), 1977

**ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS/ DISTINCTIONS**(selected)**:**

“Mule Collector,” short story, subject of article in *Grant Jour-*

*nal,* by Christopher E. Roy, 2021

Notable Essay Citation, *Best American Essays 2021,* for “*Noo*

*Jall,”* in *Colorado Review*

Notable Essay Citation, *Best American Essays 2018,* for “The

Lesson My Father’s Suitcase” in *Colorado Review*

Poem (“Crossing Braddock Run”)selected for reprint on *Poetry*

*Daily,* July 14, 2017.

Poem (“Sarah, Unbroken”) selected for reprint on *Verse Daily,*

Sept. 20, 2017

Notable Essay citation, *Best American Essays 2016,* for

“Somewhere West of Truth or Consequences” in *Crazyhorse*

Pulitzer Prize nominations from Doubleday, 1995; Graywolf Press,

2001, 2004; Anhinga Press, 2008; Press 53, 2017

Distinguished Scholar nomination, Virginia Commonwealth

University, 2009, 2010

Spokane Prize for Poetry finalist, 2004

Pushcart Prize nominations 1985, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1999,

2000, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2018,

2020, 2021

Nelson Algren Award finalist, *Chicago Tribune*, 1992

Hector Award finalist in nonfiction, Hall School of Journalism,

Troy State University, 1978

Mayflower Award for Best Book in North Carolina, runner-up, 1977

**PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

BOOKS:

*Mr. Potato Head Vs. Freud: Lessons on the Craft of Writing*

*Fiction,* 2021, Press 53

*Every Story Has a Story* (fiction) now in circulation

*Music for Hard Times: Selected Stories,* 2021 Press 53

*The Dictionary of Unspellable Noises: New & Selected*

*Poems, 1975-2018,* Press 53, Jan. 2019

*Total Balance Farm* (poems), Press 53, 2017

*Haints* (novel), New Rivers Press, 2012; reissued as ebook,

Curtis Brown Studios, summer 2018

*The Book of Roscoe* (novel), now in circulation

*Dead Languages* (poems), Anhinga Press, 2008

*The Weatherman* (novel), Graywolf Press, hardcover, Sept.

2004; reissued as ebook, Curtis Brown Studios, Summer

2016

*War Memorials* (novel), Graywolf Press, hardcover, Nov.

2000; Houghton Mifflin, softcover, Fall 2001; reissued

as ebook, Curtis Brown Studios, summer 2019

*The Member-Guest* (novel), Doubleday, Mar. 1995

*Wind Over Water* (poems), Northwoods Press, 1985

*Sidetracks (poems), Jackpine Press 1977*

*Labyrinthiad* (poetry chapbook), Bard Press, 1974

SCREENPLAYS, PLAYS, AND BROADCAST PRODUCTIONS:

*Blue World* (play), now in circulation

*War Memorials* (adapted screenplay), optioned to River

One Films, 2009

*The Raven-Mocker* (original screenplay) sold to Warner

Bros., 1999

*The Member-Guest* (adapted screenplay) optioned by River One

Films/David Brown/Manhattan Project, 1996-2011, optioned

by HBO, 2011-2013, re-optioned by River One Films 2013

*Exclusions in the Policy*, (play) staged by Wake Forest

University, 1997

*Elections in Alabama: Exercise in Futility,* (documentary)

broadcast over 67 radio stations of the Alabama News

Network, Nov. 1978

*Public Affairs,* 30 half-hour radio documentaries for the

Alabama Information Network (Alanet), 1978; also wrote

@800 five-minute news broadcasts for Alanet, 1978

*A Christmas Carol*, (play) adapted from Dickens, performed

each holiday season since 1976 at the Neuse Theatre in

Smithfield, NC.

*Love Poem,* (one-act play) produced by the Circle-in-the-

Square Theatre at the New York Cultural Center on

Broadway, 1974

MAGAZINES AND ANTHOLOGIES:

*The Poetry Miscellany, “*This Saddest Thing,” 2022

*Hamilton Stone Review,* “Eagle and Commercial-Grade Self-Pro-

pelled Leaf Blower,” “If Left Alone,” “Crossing Paths,”

(poems), Vol. 45.

*Colorado Review, “Noo Jall”* (essay), Vol. 47, No. 3, fall/

winter 2020

*Author Voices,* online interview, published Dec. 9, 2019

*Blackbird,* Public Poetry Reading, Virginia Commonwealth

University, Dec. 2019, online

*Verse Daily,* “Free Will in Florida,” July 3, 2019

*Colorado Review,* “The Lesson in My Father’s

Suitcase” (essay), fall/winter, 2017

*Verse Daily, “*Sarah Unbroken” (poem reprint)Sept. 20, 2017

*Poetry Daily, “*Crossing Braddock Run,” (poem)July 14, 2017

*Gettysburg Review,* “Sarah, Unbroken,” spring 2017

*Numero Cinq,* “If Left Alone, “ Entropy,” “Claudia’s

Birthday,” “When Death Comes Knocking”(poems), Vo. VIII,

No. 6, June 2016

*Alabama Literary Review,* “Bird as Metaphor for Bird,” (poem),

Vol. 24, No. 1, 2015

*Crazyhorse,* “Somewhere West of Truth or Consequences,”

(essay), Number 88, Fall 2015

*Writers Chronicle,* “Mr. Potato Head vs. Freud,” (essay),

Volume 48 Number 2, October/November 2015

*Tampa Review, “*Waiting for the Next Ice Age,” “Ten Haiku

About the Limitations of the Heart, With One

Omitted,” (poems), fall 2016

Paper Camera: 50 Years of *New Rivers Press, “*Curves and

Angles,” (essay) April 29, 2014

*5th Wednesday Journal,* “Today’s Lessons in the Animal

Kingdom” (poem), issue 10, spring 2012

*Hunger Mountain, “*Story, Image, and Idea,” (essay) spring

2012

*Gettysburg Review*, “Mary Jean McKinney,” chapter from *Haints*

(novel), summer 2012

*Hunger Mountain,* “”Jerry Lee Statten,” chapter from *Haints*

(novel), May, 2011

*Hunger Mountain,* “Doc McKinney,” chapter from *Haints* (novel),

May, 2011

*American Fiction, “*Introduction to American Fiction,”

(essay), Vol. 11, New Rivers Press, 2010

*Richmond Noir,* “The Apprentice” (fiction), Akashic Books,

2010

*New Ohio Review,* “Reverend Tyree,” chapter from *Haints*

(novel), fall 2009; reprinted online 2020

*Hunger Mountain*, “Bobby Malone,” chapter from *Haints* (novel),

fall 2009; reprint May, 2011

*Chautauqua, “*Ellen Parsons McKinney,” chapter from *Haints*,

Issue 6, 2009

*Center: A Journal for the Literary Arts,* “Character and

Subtext” (essay), Volume 8, 2009

*Makeout Creek,* “Autumn Rising” (poem), Vol. 1, No. 1, 2008

*The Southern Review,* “Questionnaire,” “What I Should Know by

Now” (poems), Volume 43, issue 3, summer 2007

*Colorado Review, “Patty Hatton,”* chapter from *Haints* (novel),

XXXIII/2 Summer 2006

*The Habit of Art, “*Home Course Advantage” (fiction), Indiana

University Press, 2005

*Burnside Review*, “Two Infatuations, Two Red Cars, and an

Allegory” (poem), Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring 2006

*River Styx,* “Why We Don’t Look Forward to Eternal Damnation”

(poem), Issue 71, 2005

*Snake Nation Review,* “The Night Marvin Gaye Was Shot by His

Father” and “Leaving Denver” (poems), Fall 2005

*Snake Nation Journal*, “Buying a New Motorcycle at Fifty”

(poem), Vol. I, No. 1.

*Eclipse*, “Boring Sunset West of Fort Stockton, After a Storm”

(poem), Vol. 16, Fall 2005

*Hotel Amerika,* “The First Morning in My New Apartment”

(poem), Volume 3, No. 2, Spring 2005

*Sycamore Review*, “The Right Answers in Middle America”

(poem), Vol. 17, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2005

*Alaska Quarterly Review*, “Total Balance Farm,” (poem) Vol.

22, No. 1 & 2, Spring/Summer 2005

*Bellingham Review,* “Advice from the Previous Century”

(poem), Vol. XXVII, Nos. 1 & 2, Issue 54, Spring/Fall 2004

*Sudden Stories: The Mammoth Book of Miniscule Fiction,*

“Fingerlings” (fiction), Mammoth Books, 2003

*Ascent,* “Southern Comfort” (poem), Volume 28, No.1, Fall

2003

*Nimrod,* “Contemporary Doxology” (poem), Volume 46, No. 2,

Spring/Summer 2003

*Puerto Del Sol,* “Latin Class Foreshadows a Separation”

(poem), Volume 39, No. 1, Winter 2003/4

*New Orleans Review,* “Still Life with Strings: a Disassembled

Sonnet” (poem), December 2002

*Colorado Review,* “Graduation Speech for My Daughters” (poem),

Volume 30, No. 2, Summer 2003

*Arts & Letters,* “Modern Cartography” (poem), Spring 2003

*Louisville Review,* “The Idea of Order in *Key Largo”* (poem),

Fall 2002

*Mississippi Review,* Chapter I of novel, *The Weatherman,* July

2002, Volume 8, No. 2 online

*North American Review,* “Instructions” (poem), March/April

2002, Volume 287, No. 2

*Clackamas Literary Review,* “The Power to Haunt” (essay)

Volume 5, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2001

*Clackamas Literary Review,* “Some Assembly Required,”

(fiction), Volume 4, No. 2, Fall 2000

*Colorado Review,* “Cheap Imitations” (fiction), Volume XXVII

Spring 2000

*Chicken Soup for the Golfer’s Soul,* “Ike, Mamie, Spiro, and

Me” (personal essay), reprint, Health Communications, Inc.

1999

*Golf Digest*, “Ground Under Repair“(fiction), Vol. 50, No. 3,

March 1999.

*Colorado Review,* “*The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *Thirst”*

(essay review) Vol. XXVI, Spring 1999

*Hawaii Review,* (25th Anniversary “Best of” issue) “On Thinking

There Are Too Many Ways to Start a Poem About Death” and

“American Highways” (poems), Vol. 21.2, No. 50, Summer

1998, reprinted from Vol. 21.1, No. 49, Fall 1997

*Golf Digest,* “Ike Mamie, Spiro, and Me” (personal essay),

Vol. 48, No. 4, Apr. 1997

*Hawaii Review,* “Midwestern Wish “(poem), Vol. 21.1, No. 49,

Fall 1997

*Hawaii Review*, “Exclusions in the Policy” (fiction), Vol.

20.2, No. 47, Fall 1996

*Colorado Review,* “History Lessons” (fiction), Vol. XXIV,

Spring 1997

*Home: American Writers Remember Rooms of Their Own,* “The

Storm Door” (personal essay), Pantheon Books, Nov. 1995,

reprint by Vintage Books, Oct. 1996

*Colorado Review,* “Torch Song” (fiction), Vol. XXI, No. 2,

Fall 1994

*Writers’ Forum,* “Intermediate Swimming” (fiction), Vol. 19,

1993

*Mid-American Review,* “Design Flaws” (fiction), Vol. XIII, No.

2, Spring 1993

*American Fiction,* “Mule Collector” (fiction), Birch Lane

Press, July 1993

*Sewanee Review,* “Music for Hard Times” (fiction), Vol. CI,

No. 2, Spring 1993

*America,* “*Brightness Falls” (review), Vol. 167, No. 10, Oct.*

*10, 1992*

*American Fiction,* “Home Course Advantage” (fiction), Birch

Lane Press, July 1991

*Gettysburg Review,* “Surface Tension” (fiction), Vol.3, No. 2,

Spring 1990

*Illinois Writers Review,* “When the Dreamscape Is Real” (essay

review), Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 1990

*Anthology of Magazine Verse and Yearbook of American Poetry,*

“The Night Before the Operation” (poem reprint) 1985

*Kansas Quarterly,* “Wind Over Water” (poem), Vol. 17, No. 4,

1985

*Mississippi Mud*, “The Retirement Tape of Schuyler Pizarro

Poke” (fiction), Fall 1984

Northwest *Review,* “Survivalists” (fiction), Vol. XXII, Nos.

1 & 2, 1984

*Southern Poetry Review,* “Splitting Up the Record Collection”

and “The Night Before the Operation” (poems), Vol. XXIV,

No. 1, Spring 1984

*Connecticut Poetry Review,* “Bears” (poem), Vol. 3, No. 1,

1984

*Bluefish,* “Poetics” (poem), Vol. 1, No. 2, 1984

*Dan River Anthology,* “Cemetery” (poem), 1984

*College English,* “Fundamentalists” and “A Ten-Year-Old Boy

Discovering the Certainty of Descent” (poems), Vol. 45,

No. 8, Dec. 1983

*Poetry Now,* “Columbus” and “Missing Link Sausages” (poems),

Vol. 7, No. 1, 1983

*St. Andrews Review,* “Déjà Vu,” “Change and Immortality,”

“Rate of Exchange,” “Hamlet,” and “Ou Sont Les Neiges

d’Antan” (poems), 1979

*Poetry Now,* “Sidetracks,” “The History of America,” “Song of

Experience,” and “Real Life Romances” (poems), 1978

*Wind*, “That’s How It Was” (poem), 1976

*Multifold,* “The Presh Poems,” “Under,” “The Bum,” and “The

Lunch Counter,” 1973

EDITED WORKS:

*Beloit Fiction Journal,* Vol. 1-Vol. 11, No. 1; Vol. 12, No.

2-Vol. 16; editor and publisher, 1984-2004

*Indiana Review,* Vol. 6, Nos. 1, 2, & 3, 1982-1983

Contributing editor, *Colorado Review,* 1997-present

Contributing editorships through AWP, 1999-2003:

*Hayden’s Ferry Review, Puerto Del Sol, Mid-American Review,*

*Quarterly West, Bellingham Review, Cimarron Review, Willow*

*Springs, Fourth Genre, Five Points, Shenandoah, The*

*Journal, Tampa Review, Crab Orchard Review*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ELECTED POSTS:

Writers’ Guild of America, East, 1999-present

Advisory Board, Vermont College of Fine Arts, 2007-9, 2011-

13

University Graduate Council, VCU, 2013-2016

University Graduate Appeals Board, VCU, 2013-2016

Advisory Board, Stonecoast low-residency MFA program,

University of Southern Maine, 20005-06

Advisory Board, Antioch Writers Workshop of Yellow Springs,

1999-2003

Association of Writers and Writing Programs, 1987-present

WRITING CONTEST JUDGE (selected):

Press 53 fiction award, 2018

North Carolina Screenwriting Grants, 2018

Wake Forest University poetry awards, 2016

Delaware Individual Artist Grants, 2013

H.E. Francis Award in Short Fiction, 2011

Randolph College Writing Awards, 2009, 2011

American Fiction Prize, 2009

*Dogwood* Prize for Fiction, 2006

*Clackamas Review* Prize for Fiction, 2002

Willamette Fiction Prize, 2001

*Writers’ Digest* Fiction Contest, 1995

*Phoebe* Fiction Prize, 1996

Lawrence University Writing Awards, 1985-1995

Dane County (WI) Arts Commission Fiction Grants, 1994

Macalester College Writing Awards, 1990-1996

Knox College Writing Awards, 1985, 1994

*Arts Insight Magazine* Fiction Award, 1983

**READINGS** (selected):

Florida State University, Arizona State University, Ohio University, The Writer’s Voice (NYC), Indiana University, Bradley University, Knox College, Gettysburg College, Wake Forest University, Willamette University, AWP Conference (4 times), University of Southern Maine, Bowdoin College, Frostburg State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Vermont College, University of North Carolina—Charlotte, North Carolina State, University of Alabama, St. John’s University, Antioch College, St. Benedict’s University, Bluffton College, Randolph-Macon Women’s College, University of the South, Colorado State University, Longwood University, Ripon College, Macalester College, Prairie Lights Bookstore, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Southern Festival of the Book (Nashville), Bookmarks Bookstore (Winston-Salem), Virginia Festival of the Book (Charlottesville, twice), multiple Barnes & Noble bookstores, Borders Bookstores throughout the country.

**COURSES TAUGHT** (selected)

Graduate:

Fiction Writing

Creative Nonfiction Writing

Screenwriting

Novel Writing

Literary Magazine Editing

Undergraduate:

Fiction Writing Scottish Fiction

Screenwriting 20th Cent. Am. Fiction

Creative Nonfiction Poetry Writing

Magazine Feature Writing Playwriting

Contemporary American Fiction

Literature of the American South

**COLLEGE SERVICE (2009-17 only)**

At VCU:

Director, MFA program (2009-11, 2016-2018)

Chair, University Graduate Academic Committee (2010-11)

Member, Executive Committee, Dept. of English, multiple years

Many other university and department committees

National:

Member, AWP, 34 years

Contributing Editor, *Colorado Review,* 2004-present

Director, Conference on Writing for Stage and Screen, Vermont

College of Fine Arts, 2010