

Randall Smith

Chairman and Professor of Creative Writing

Ph.D. University of South Carolina

M.A. University of South Carolina

B.B.A. University of Georgia

Books

Hauling Mixed Freight: Teaching and Writing in the New Old World. Multifaceted discussion of how teaching creative writing and writing creatively have changed in the digital age while also remaining fundamentally unchanged. Co-authored with novelist Howard Bahr. Work in Progress.

Online English Grammar, Punctuation, and Writing Tutorial, Created for the Institute for Professional Development, University of Phoenix. Co-authored with Laura Smith. July-November 2003. Approximately six hundred pages of lessons, examples, review questions, and test banks.

Academic Articles

"Ten Things I've Learned as a Creative Writing Teacher," Portico Magazine, May 2013

Quoted in Training a New Generation of Christian Writers. Feature article on the creative writing program at Belhaven College in "Arts and Culture" section of byFaith (Fall 2009): 28-29

James Dickey and His Reader: The Movement from Drowning to Deliverance, The Way We Read James Dickey: critical Approaches for the Twenty-first Century. Eds. William B. Thesing and Theda Wrede, Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, 2009

The Love That Moves the Sun: Creative Writing and the Pursuit of Sacramental Vision, The Creative Spirit 4.3 (2006): 53-58

Quoted in A New Direction for Christian Publishing? By Stephen McGarvey, byFaith 6 (November / December 2005): 40-43

Writer, Reader, Student: Into the Maw of the Monster, James Dickey Newsletter 21.2: 18-24, 2005

Creative Activity or Performance

BluMasonJar.org. Creative blog, founder, developer, photographer, and writer. (Established 2014). Stats as of December 18, 2014: 1,714 views from 62 countries; 36 posts, including 20 poems and 12 distinct pages; 44 pieces of artwork.

The Day of Disappearance (Poetry), Rock and Sling 4.1 (2007): 8.

The Road and Talking to the Dove. (Poetry) Ruminant 3 (2007): 29- 30

Direct and host visiting writer series on Belhaven campus. Visiting writers have included Ken Waldman, Beth Ann Fennelly, Geoffrey Wood, Chris Tusa, Paul Ruffin, and Jack Bedell.

Professional Leadership

Poetry Contest Judge, Mississippi Poetry Society, Annual Festival, Belhaven, College, fall 2007

Sponsor and Host, African American History Month Reading, Belhaven College, February 2007 and 2008

Executive Committee Member, The James Dickey Society, 2006-2009

Professional Presentations

“Creative Writing: The Shovel with Which We Dig,” Convention Speaker. National Federation of State Poetry Societies Annual Convention. Memphis, TN. June 2010.

“James Dickey’s Writing Process.” Panel Chair. Special James Dickey Conference (James Dickey: A Celebration of the Life and Works). University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC. January 2007.

“James Dickey as Literary Critic.” Panel Chair. South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference. Charlotte, NC. November 2006.

Awards

Recipient, William Winter Scholar. Nominated by Belhaven University.

Recognized at the 26th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, February 2015.

Recipient, HEADWAE Award. Belhaven University, fall 2011.

Academic Research

Currently developing a special topics writing workshop titled "Writing In and About the South" (CWR 495). During the first half of the semester, students will study white tenant farmers during the 1930s and '40s, then write a fictional piece about one of these characters. During the second half of the semester, students will study African American participants in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and '60s, then write a short story about one of these characters. Curriculum support will include reading primary documents from these periods of American history and taking field trips to such places as the Mississippi Delta, the MS Ag Museum, and the Civil Rights Trail and Museum in Jackson.